むくろなるほしたまたるこ

アフタヌーンKC

鬼頭莫宏
MOHIRO KITOH

骸なる星の珠たる子

なるたる

アフタヌーン
KC283

なるたる

鬼頭莫宏

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アフタヌーンKC
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万朶学園、春の健脚オリエンテーリング大会。
小沢さとみはシイナに攻撃を仕掛ける。
子供の頃からの遺恨を抱えて。
彼女はどこにたどりつくのか——。

骸なる星の珠たる子

「差別用語」。
「差別用語」を禁じることで問題は解決できるのでしょうか。
言葉が「差別」をしているわけではありません。
そこに、その意味を付与してるのは、人間の意識なのですが。

2001年12月 鬼頭 莫宏

Cover Design:GRID INTERNATIONAL INC.

From a dying planet shall come the children of light...

shadow star

GRUDGES, PART ONE

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH

OKAY, LADIES! FIND YOUR TEAMS!
SUB-LEADERS! TAKE ROLL CALLS AND THEN REPORT TO THE EVENT COMMITTEE!

OH!
SHIMAZU
?!
HAVE YOU SEEN TEAM SIXTEEN?
OH, I'M... I'M LOOKING, TOO.
G...
GOOD LUCK...

I'M SORREEE !!

YOU'RE LATE!

1-CHERRY TAMAI

HAH. I *THOUGHT* IT WAS YOU.

TAMAI.

WELL, I'LL GO TURN IN THE LIST.

HEH... SORRY...

HERE! STICK THIS ON YOUR CHEST.

NOW! IF WE'RE ALL HERE, I'LL EXPLAIN THE RULES FOR THIS SPRING'S *HEALTHY LEGS ORIENTEERING TOURNAMENT.*

WE'VE TWEAKED THE STANDARD *FOOT ORIENTEERING* RULES. *RUNNING* WILL BE *IMPOSSIBLE.*

IN ADDITION TO THE *USUAL* SCORES, WE'RE ADDING *EXTRA POINTS* FOR ANY *TRASH* YOU PICK UP!

EACH TEAM HAS *FOUR* HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND *THREE* MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.

UPPER-CLASSMEN! ADVISE AND *LOOK OUT* FOR THE YOUNGER GIRLS!

UNDER-CLASSMEN! OBEY YOUR SENIORS! DON'T GO OFF ON YOUR OWN!

WE WILL NOW HAND OUT *MAPS* AND *SILVA COM-PASSES!*

SEND *ONE PERSON* FROM EACH TEAM TO GET THEM!

31

OKAY. LET'S ASSIGN TASKS.

WE'VE GOT TWO HIGH SCHOOL *JUNIORS*, ME AND MISS UI, SO WE'LL BE LEADER AND SUB-LEADER.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHO-MORE...

...MISS KAWA-NA!

Y- *YES?!*

YOU'RE OUR *TIME-KEEPER.*

AND OUR *NEWBIE... TAMAI,* IS IT?

THIS IS *ALL* NEW TO HER, SO CAN SOMEONE STICK WITH HER?

LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST!

R- *RIGHT!*

THE *REST* OF YOU, *MAP CHECKS* AND *TRASH WATCH!*

LET'S *DO IT!*

HURRAYYY!!

18

2-VIOLET TANAKA

WILL I DO?

PLEASE. THAT'S *PER-FECT.*

ONE MINUTE!

ALL TEAMS TO THE START LINE!

16

2-CHERRY KAWUNA

TEN SECONDS!

START!

2-VIOLET KAWAGI

AND REMEMBER... SAFETY FIRST!

MAYBE YOU'RE *TOO* WORRIED?

THEY'VE BEEN BEHAVING THEMSELVES EVER SINCE.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.

DOESN'T HURT TO BE *CAREFUL.*

NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR *YOU* SAY THAT.

HAPPY FAMILY *NON-* PLANNING...

BUG OFF.

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING TODAY...

...EHHH, *SHOULD* BE OKAY.

SATOMI OZAWA.

WHY NOT *KILL* HER?

THAT'D BE QUICKEST AND *EASIEST.*

AND START A RETALIATORY WAR?!

TAKANO WOULDN'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN.

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG? NOT READY?

OF COURSE NOT!

KUHAK

WHY DO I GOTTA...

...DO THIS ?!

NO OTHER WAY, RIGHT?

WE'RE SHORT-HANDED.

SO WHY DO I HAVE TO--?

I'LL DRESS UP, IF YOU'D RATHER?

GAWD

PLEASE, NO. I'LL GO.

WON'T OZAWA NOTICE ME?

NAW. *THAT* GIRL?

SHE WON'T REMEM-BER *ANYBODY.*

YOU'RE *ENJOYING* THIS!!

FWAM

HEAVENS NO.

HEEEY, LOOKIN' *GOOD!*

WANNA TRY A *BANDA* UNIFORM NEXT TIME?

I HATE YOU.

TRULY, I DO.

MM? YOUR OGRE'S ALREADY TRACKING SHIINA?

MY *VAGINA DENTATA.*

OKAY, OKAY.

DENTA, BABY.

NORIO.

RADIO... AND *STUN GUN.*

KCHK

RIGHT. NOW, GO *WOW* 'EM!

A *STAR* IS *BORN!*

I HATE IT... I *HATE* IT...

GLLP

EX-CUUUSE ME?!

I... I LOST MY *GROUP*, YOU KNOW?

I WAS LIKE, TOTALLY SPAZZED OUT?!

33

UHM, AHH, CAN I...

WITH Y- YOU...

SURE, OF COURSE.

TAG ALONG.

....
....

HEH, YOU'RE ENJOY- ING IT.

MAYBE YOU REALLY *WANTED* TO...?

THANK GOOD-NESS IT'S *SUNNY.*

THERE'S BEEN *SO MUCH* RAIN LATELY.

I THOUGHT THEY'D CALL IT OFF.

BANDA TREATS ITS STUDENTS SO BADLY...

...THEY'D GO A■EAD IF IT WAS *POURING.*

FOR *REAL?*

TOTALLY. LIKE, WASN'T IT SPRINKLING TWO YEARS AGO...?

EVERYONE THINKS WE'RE A *PRISSY MISSIES* SCHOOL...

...BUT THE REALITY'S SOMETHING ELSE.

IT *WAS,* AND WE *DID.*

IT WAS *AWFUL.*

LET'S SEE.

IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE.

WE'RE WITHIN FIFTY METERS.

CHECK POINT...

MARKER NUMBER SIX... SIDE OF THE ROAD...

OKAY, NOW. WATCH BOTH SIDES.

OH! A RED AND WHITE *GHOST!*

EEP?!

HERE'S OUR GHOST!

KAWANA. HOW'S THE PACE?

WE'RE A *LITTLE* SLOW, BUT STILL GOOD.

RIGHT, THEN. WE'LL GO FOR MARKER EIGHT AS PLANNED.

IT SHOULD BE...

NORIO. BE CAREFUL.

BARO-METERIC PRESSURE'S DROPPING.

SHE'S MAKING SOME-THING. LOTS OF IT.

-CAMELIA NAGANO

3-PINE OZAWA

THIS IS *WEIRD.*

THE CONTROL POINT SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND *HERE.*

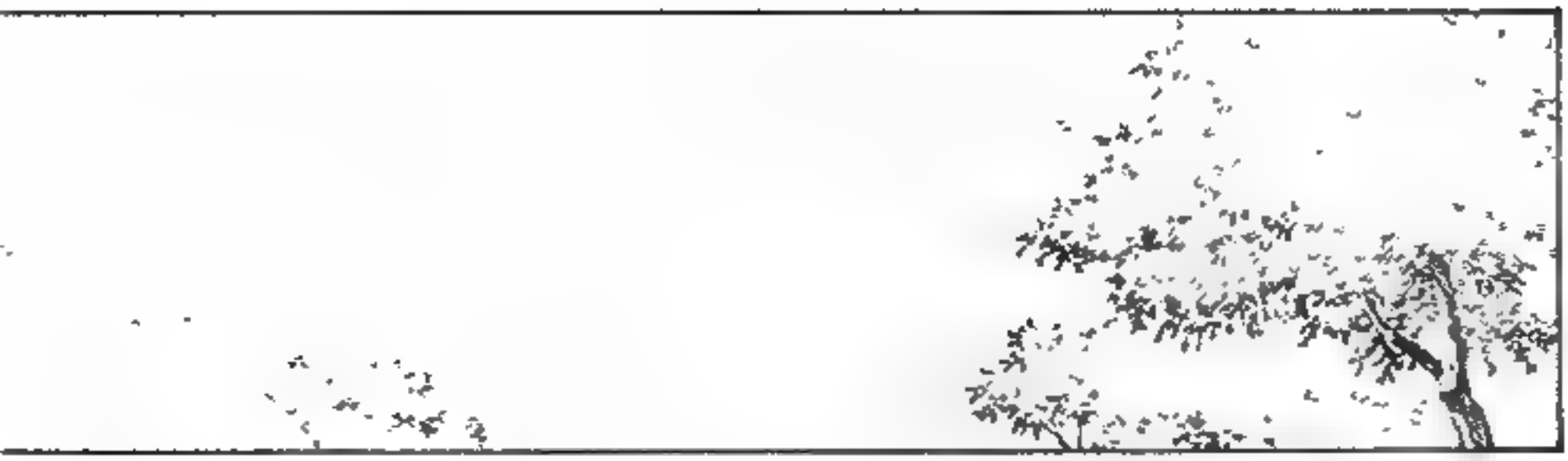
IT'S GETTING *CHILLY.*

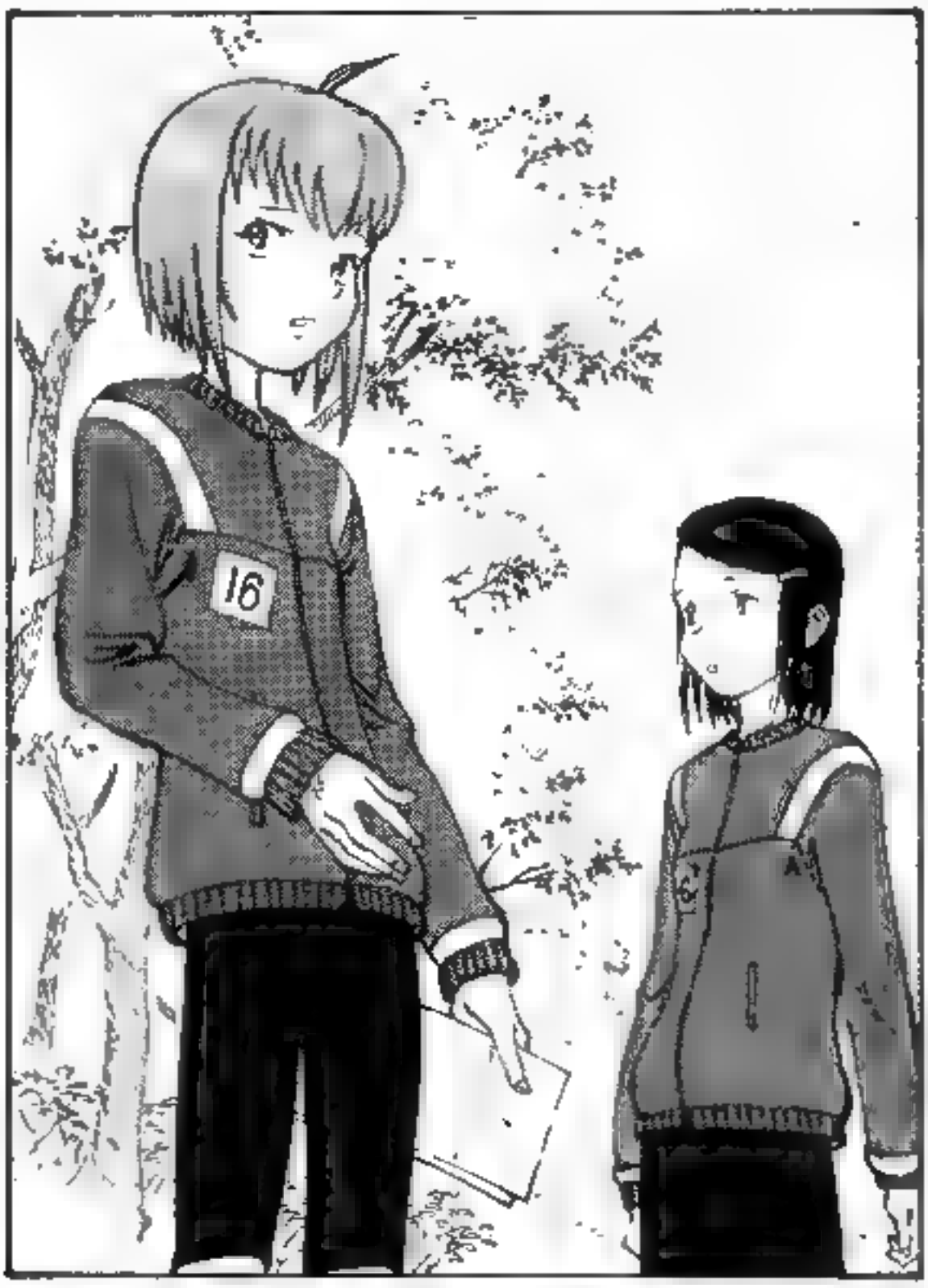
GEE, DO YOU THINK...

...WE'RE *LOST?*

YOU THINK SO?

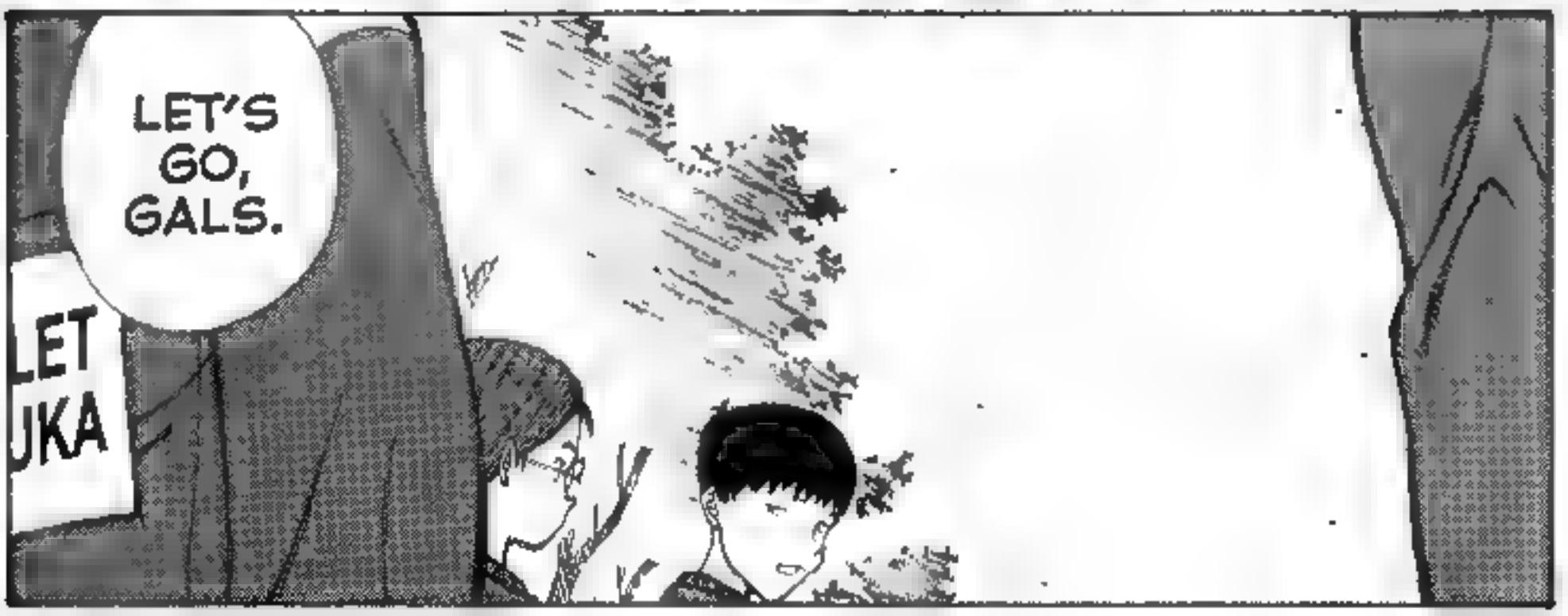
WHERE'D WE GO *WRONG?*




16

FOG?

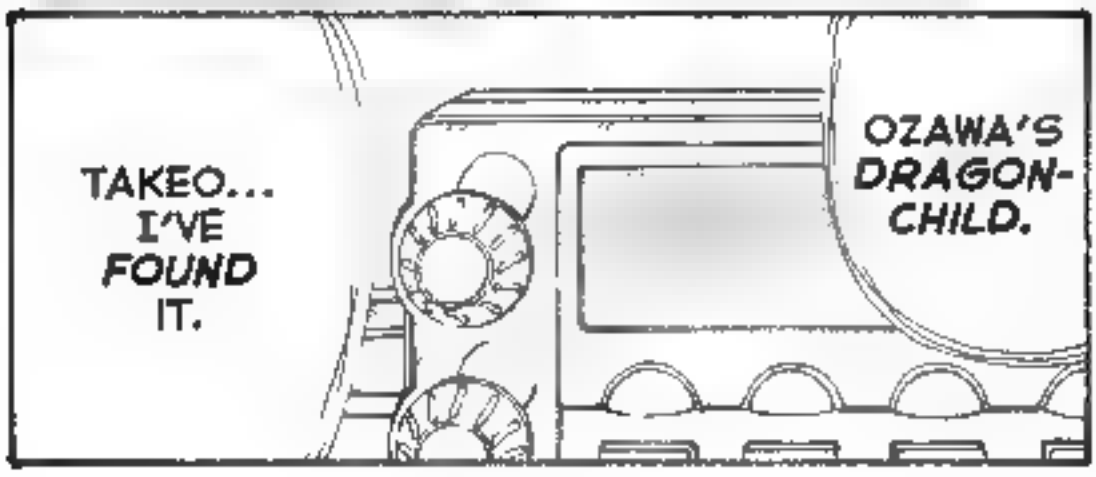
WE BETTER GET BACK TO THE ROAD.
RIGHT. LET'S HURRY!


LET'S GO, GALS.
LET
UKA

A MIST'S COME UP.
ANY THICKER AND I MIGHT LOSE SHIINA.

SHOULDN'T WE ACT NOW?

TO THE LEFT OF SHIINA'S GROUP.
NORTH SIDE.


TAKEO... I'VE FOUND IT.
OZAWA'S DRAGON-CHILD.

AH...?

YOU OKAY?

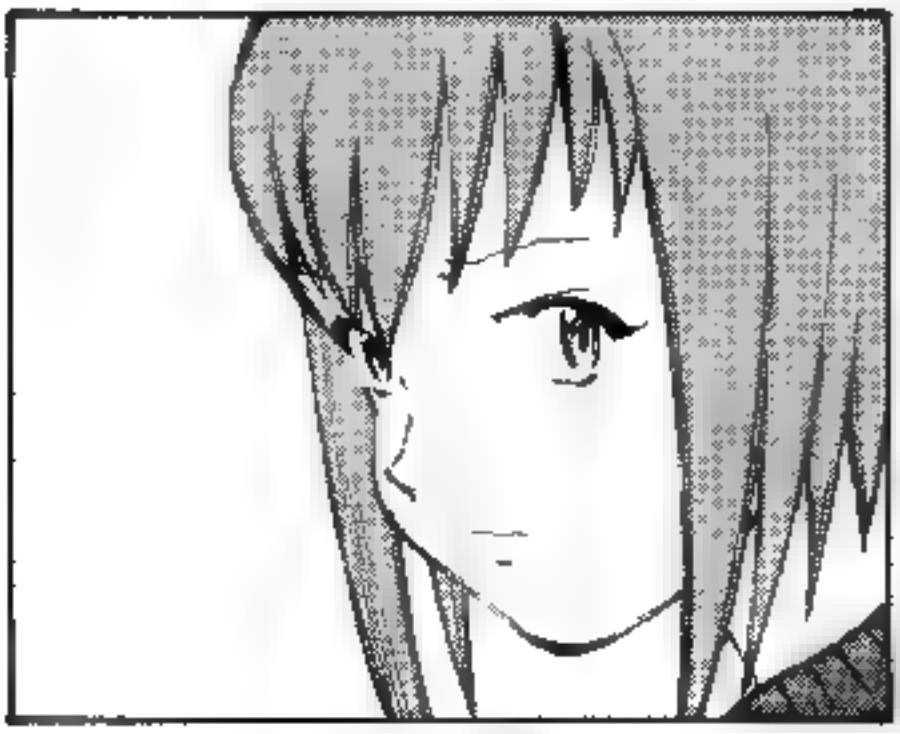
OH, YUP. JUST... *STUMBLED.*

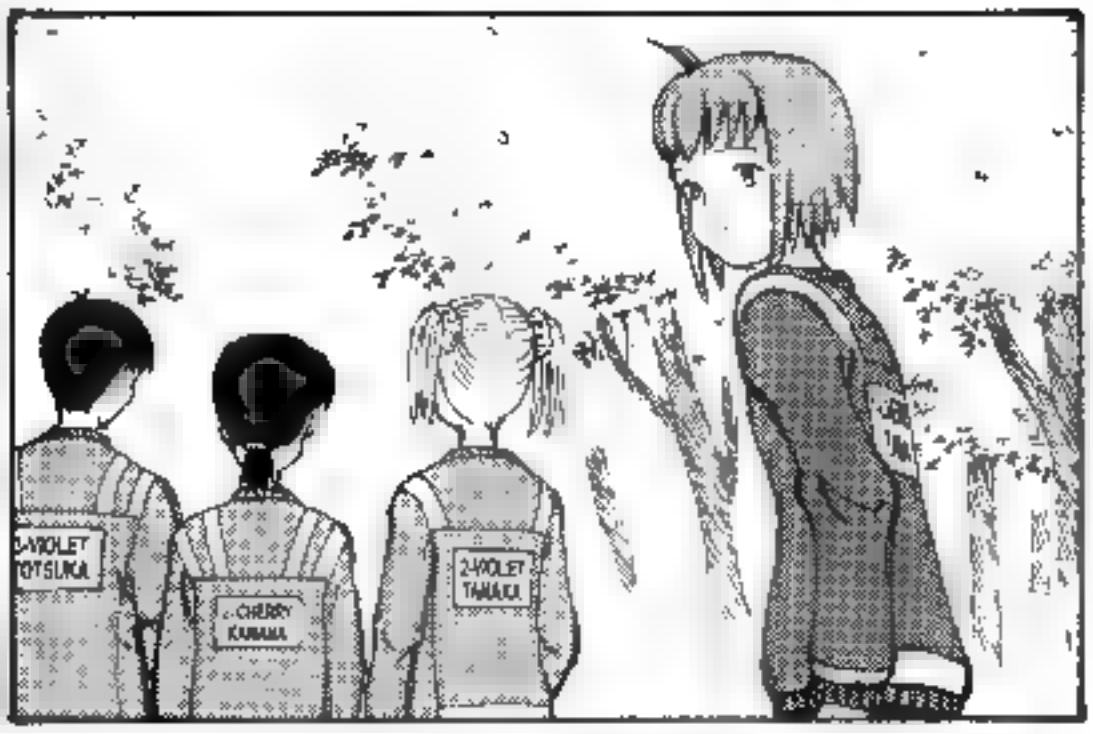
TOO FAST FOR YOU?

I'M *FINE!*

MY FEET ARE *KILLING ME!*

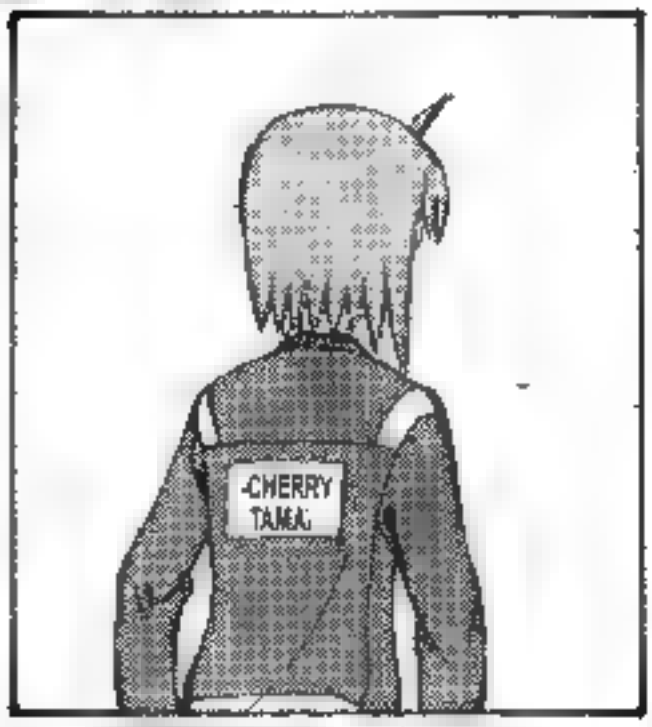
HANG IN THERE! WE DON'T WANT TO BE *MAROONED.*




2-VIOLET
TOTSUKA
2-CHERRY
KURAMA
2-VIOLET
TANAKA

NO MISTAKE.
THAT WAS HERS.

HOSHI...


2-CHERRY
TANAKA

1-CHERRY TAMAI

WE DIDN'T *COME* THIS WAY, DID WE?

WE *ARE* LOST.

AH HAH HAH!

AT TIMES LIKE THIS... *STAY* PUT!

WATCH YOUR STEP.

HELLO?! ANYBODY *HOME?*

KREEE

GLP.

EEEEK!!

GYAHH!

NOBODY'S HERE!

THE PORCH NEARLY GAVE WAY...

HAH HAH HAH!

3-VIOLET TOTSUKA

LET'S JUST *RELAX.* NO REASON TO PANIC.

UHM, *RIGHT.*

WANNA PLAY TRUMPS?

YOU BROUGHT *CARDS?*

FOR TIMES LIKE THIS...

SERIOUS?

VRROOOM

WRUMM

YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING WHERE PEOPLE CAN *SEE.*

SO WHAT *NEXT,* OZAWA?

TAMAI. YOU'RE PRETTY *DIFFER-ENT.*

PARDON?

A LOWER CLASSMAN WHO CAN GET ALONG WITH SATOMI!

16

16

UHMM...

IS MISS OZAWA SO... *DIFFICULT?*

OZAWA? *THAT* OZAWA?

UH-HUH.

THE *PLAGUE* OF THE *PINES.*

NOW, *REALLY.* SHE'S NOT *THAT* BAD.

I KNOW, I *KNOW.* ONLY...

OZAWA'S AT THE *TOP* OF HER CLASS.

BUT SHE STILL SEEMS... ON THE *EDGE.*

IT'S LIKE SHE *WANTS* TO MAKE ENEMIES.

MAYBE IT'S JUST...

...THAT OLD PINE *ATTITUDE.*

NO ONE *CARES.*

I MEAN, YOU *PINES* ARE *ALL* SMART.

BUT SATOMI, SHE'S BUILT A *WALL.*

OH, THAT'S 'CUZ THE PINE CLASSES NEVER *CHANGE.*

'SCUSE ME...?

ALL THIS *PINE* STUFF?

OH...

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

MY FRIENDS TOLD ME, BUT I DIDN'T QUITE...

GIRLS WHO STARTED BANDA IN *HIGH SCHOOL.*

LIKE I DID.

THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, VIOLETS, AND CAMELLIAS START IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

THEN, IN HIGH SCHOOL, THEY ADD THE *PINES.*

AND WE'RE *ALWAYS* PINES.

REALLY? THEY DON'T MOVE YOU AROUND?

OH! *PINES!*

NOW I GET IT. *TREES!*

3-PINE UI

NOPE. SO THERE'S THIS WEIRD FEELING OF SOLITUDE AND *ALIENATION.*

BANDA CAN BE SO *WEIRD.*

IT'S TO BOOST THE *COLLEGE ADMISSION STATS,* RIGHT?

I MEAN, WE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS COME *IN* WITH GOOD GRADES, BUT WE SLIP.

BUT THEY *DON'T* NEED A WHOLE *SPECIAL CLASS.*

I HEARD IT WAS TO KEEP OUT...

...THE *DUMMIES* FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.

TAMA!! DEFEND OUR *HONOR!*

SATOMI CARES. *LOTS.*

NO ONE TALKS ABOUT *PINES* ANYMORE.

I MEAN, LIKE, WHO *CARES?*

BECAUSE SHE *FAILED...*

...THE *MIDDLE SCHOOL* EXAMS.

sssSSS

KOFF

OWW!

OUCH!

KOFF

KOFF

WHAT IS --?!

SKRASSH!

TAMAI !!

AHH!!

:KOFF

GH
HOFF!

KOFF

16

TSURU-MARU. THIS IS BAD.

SHE'S BLINDED THE WITNESSES.

WHAT ?!

PROBABLY *CN GAS.*

TAKE HER *DOWN!*

I *CAN'T.* NOT NOW.

33

SEND IN YOUR *OGRE!*

IT'S *VAGINA DENTATA.*

SHEESH!

SKREE

SKREE

SKREEEE

VAGINA DENTATA, THEN! *PLEASE!!*

KSHAM

GSHUK

FWAP

KRAK
K

FWSK

SHRAK

KSHMAH

WKOOM

SLRRRK

THUK

AH?!

WHOOM

CHERRY TAMA

KSHOOM

HER

SHE GOT ME...

HFF

AHFF

GLMP

AHH!

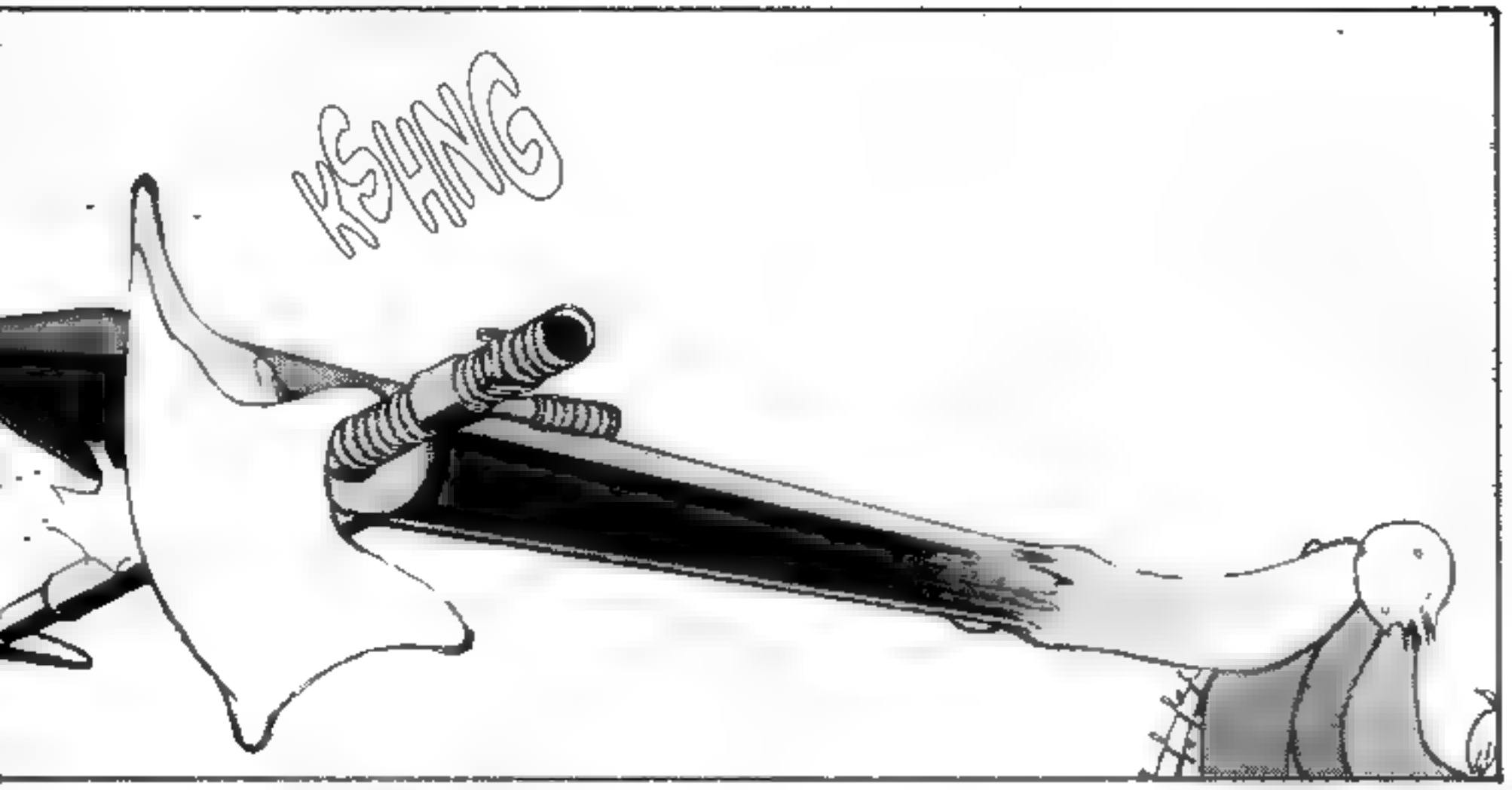
HYAH!

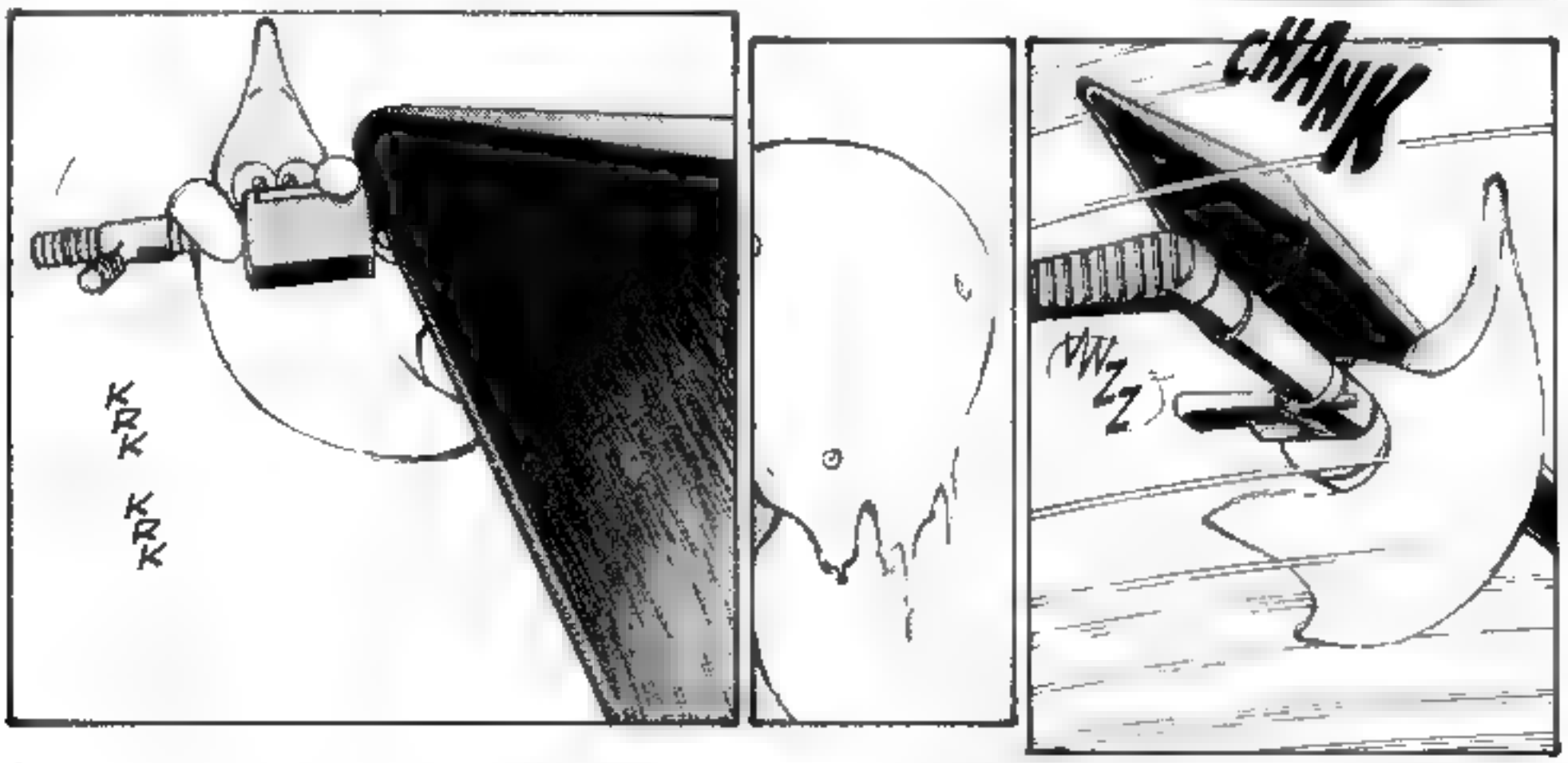
AHH!

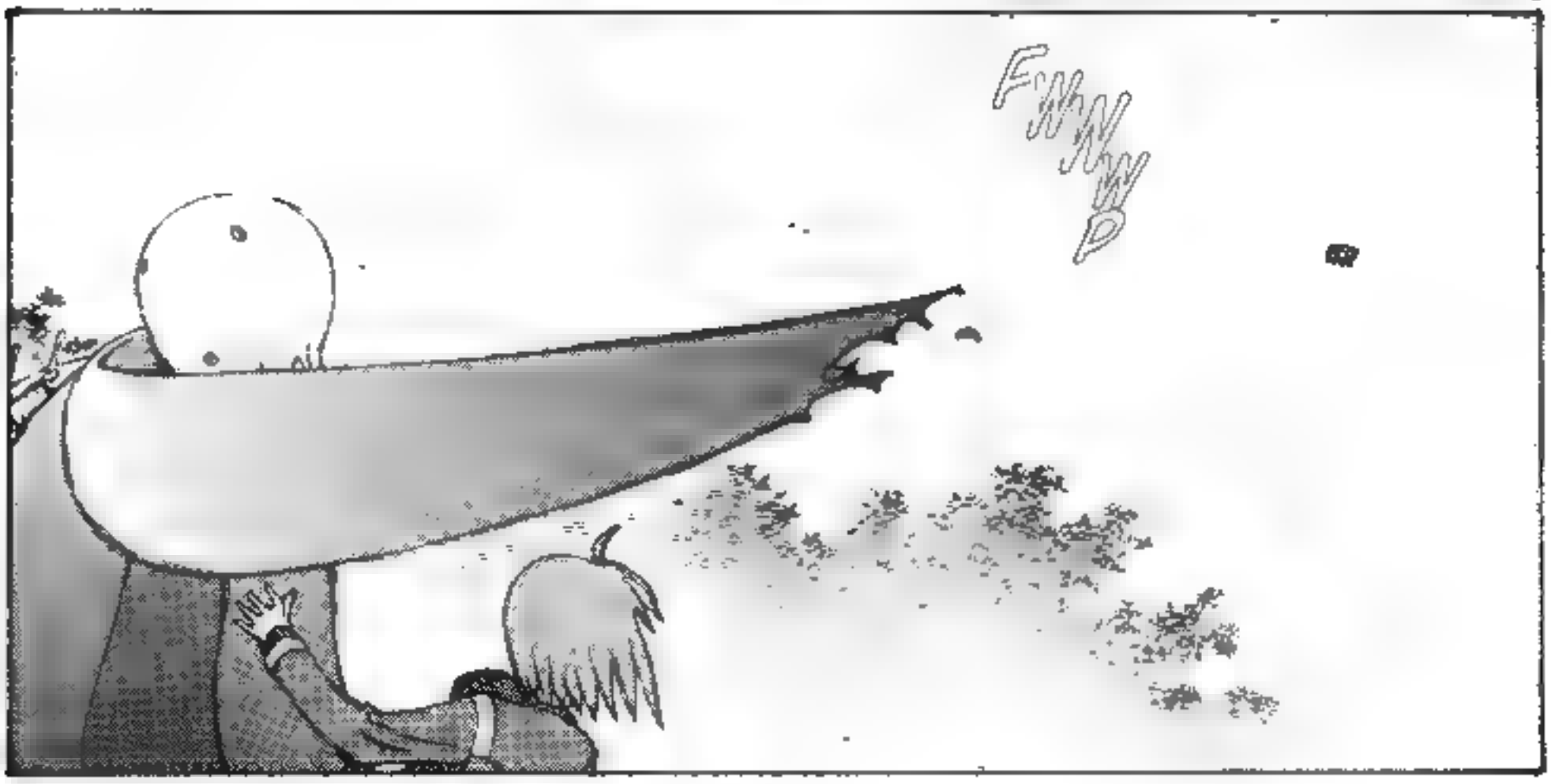
THP

THP

SLRRK

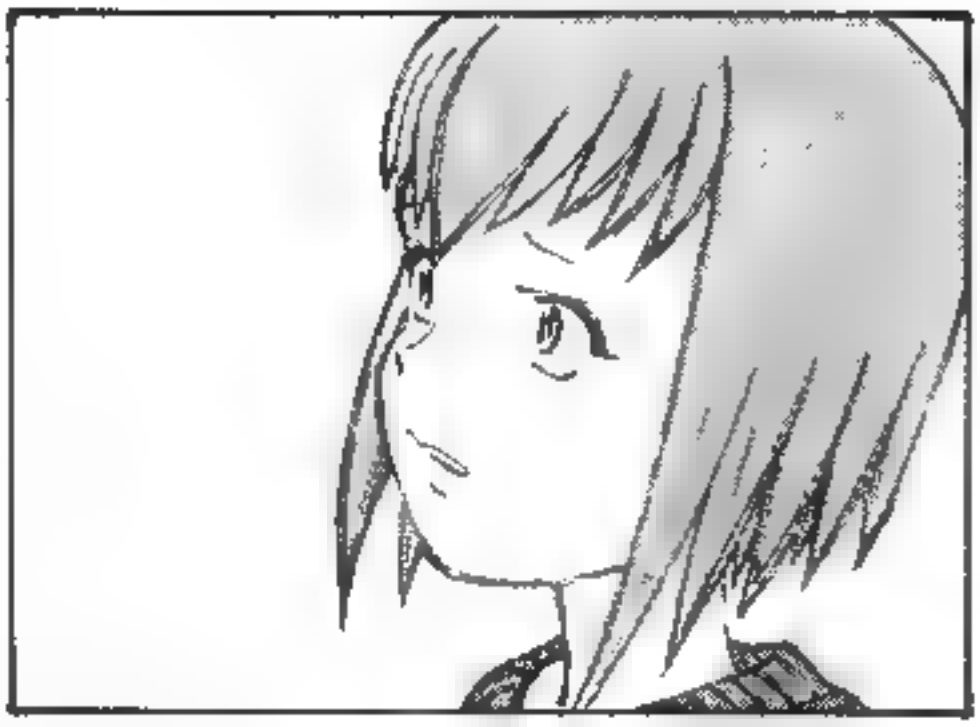

KSHNG

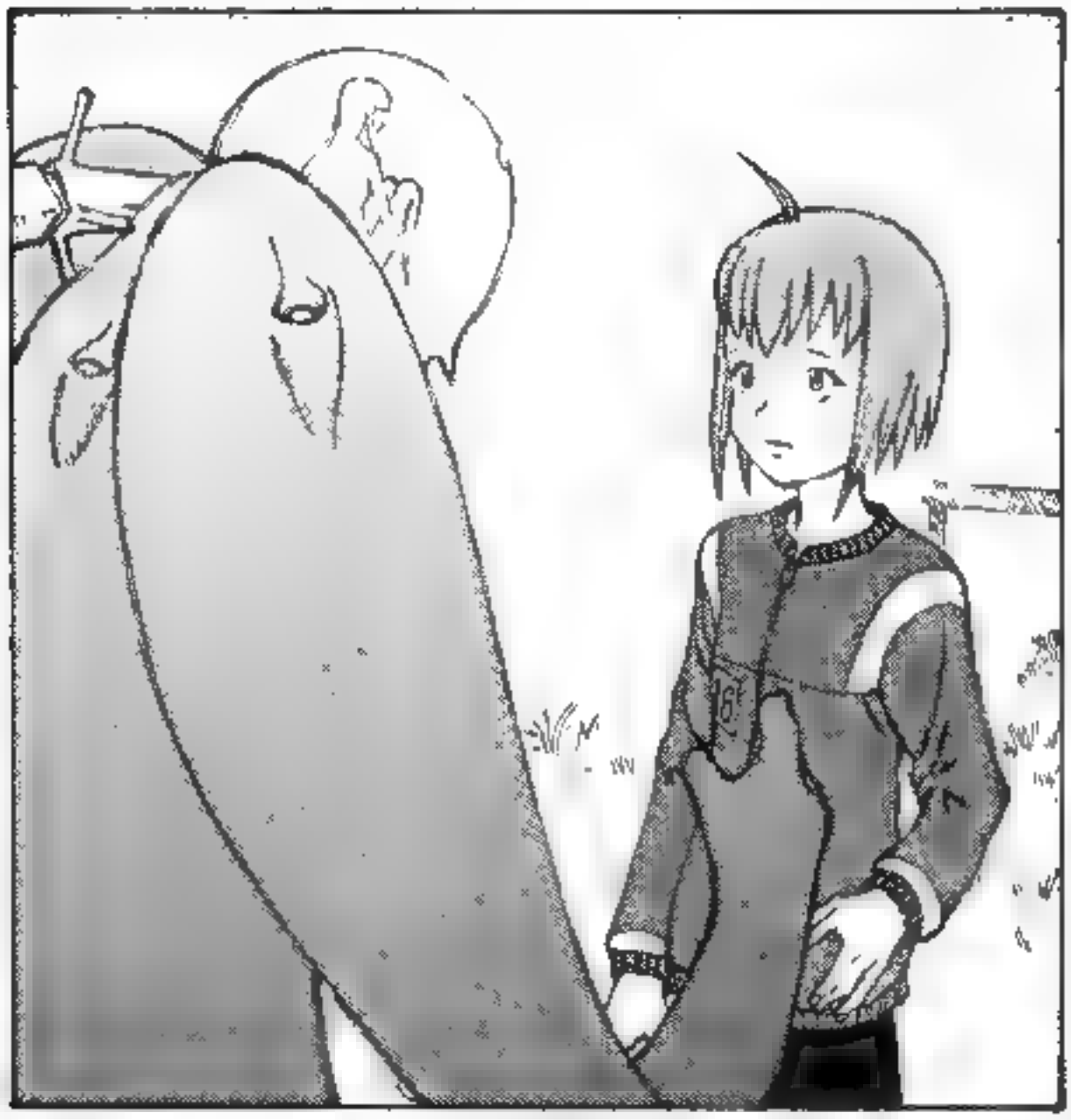

KDK
KDK
CHANK
VWZZ

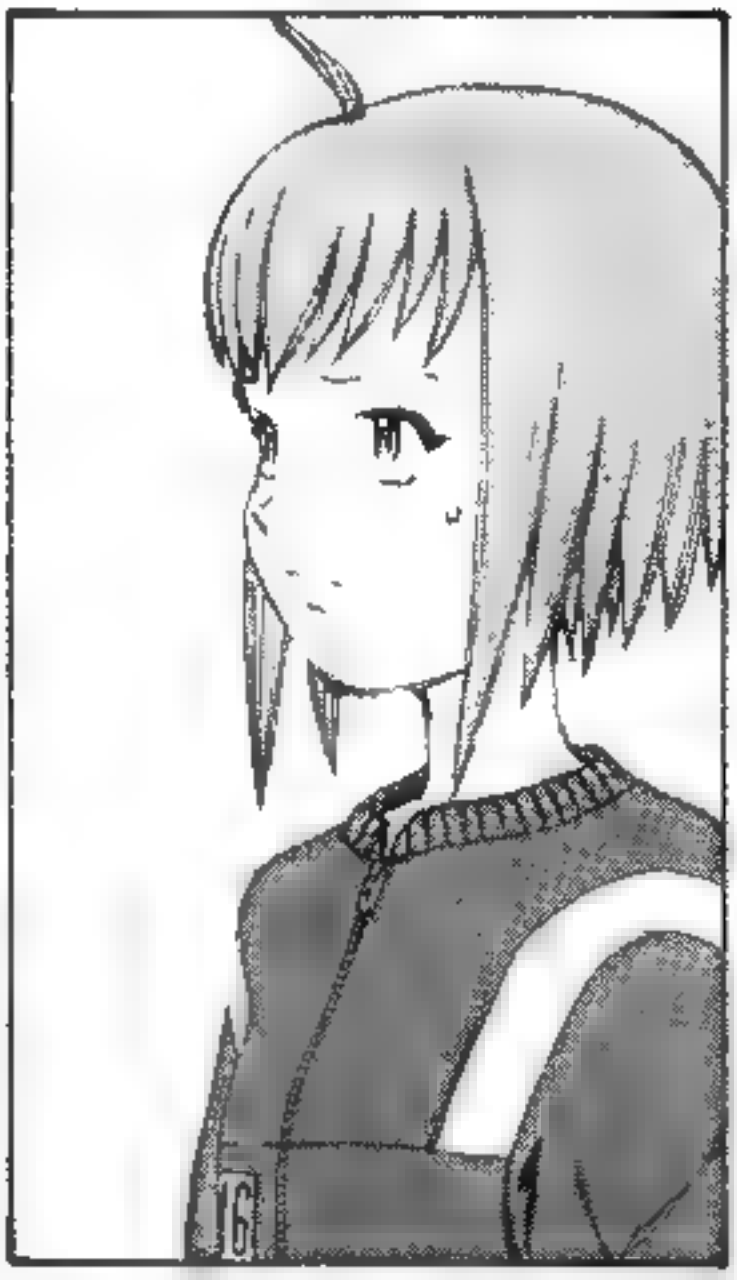

FWNWD

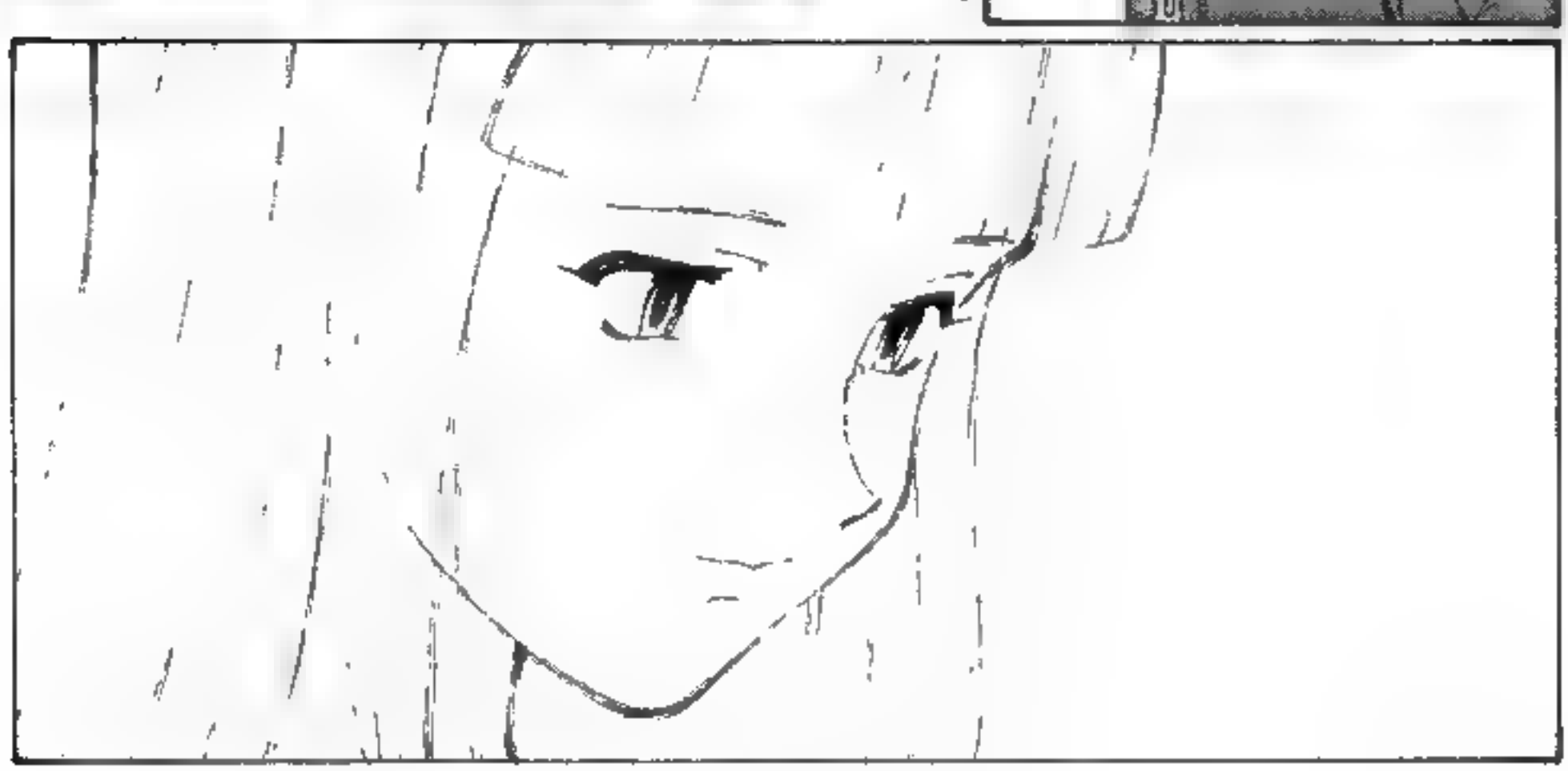
HO...
SHI...

THAD



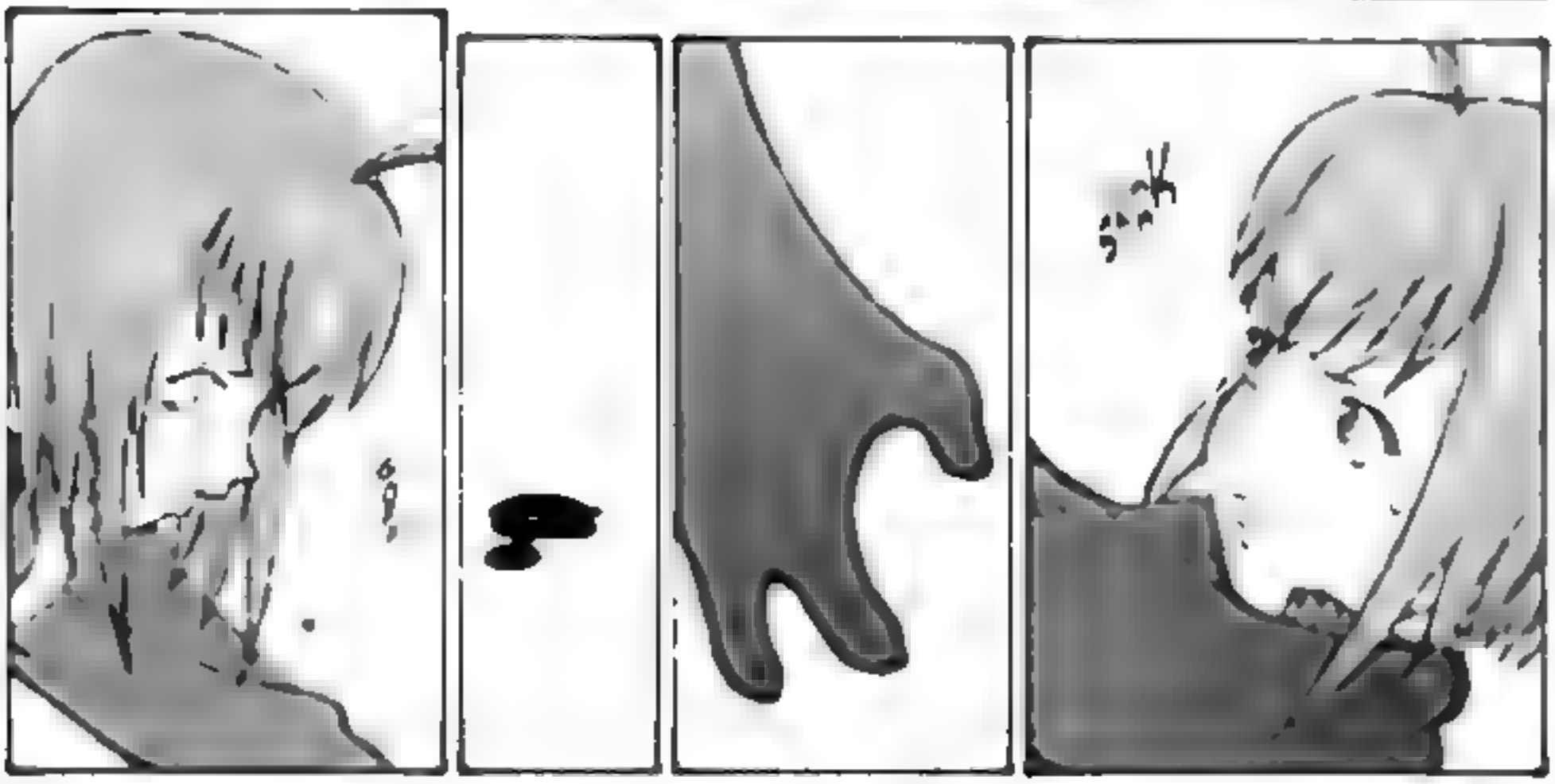






KRAK

THUD



16

T...
TAMAI
...?

AND...
WHO?

MISS
UI!!

FWSSH

AHH
?!

EH?

TAMAIII!

TMP

OH!!

EEEK!

MISS UI!

EH?

SHKK

MISS UI !!

FWDD

MISS UI!

MISS UI!!

SHE--!

SHE'S YOUR *FRIEND!*

GO *BACK!*

SAY SOME-THING!

SKREE

KCHAK

SHIINA!

NORIO!

HAVE YOU LOCATED HER?

SORRY. I'VE LOST HER.

I'M CALLING VAGINA DENTATA BACK.

NORIO. TAKE DOWN OZAWA!

TSURU-MARU... I'VE GOT A CHANCE...

ARE YOU, LIKE, OKAAAY?

YOU LOOK TOTALLY PALE.

EH?

OH. IT'S NOTHING.

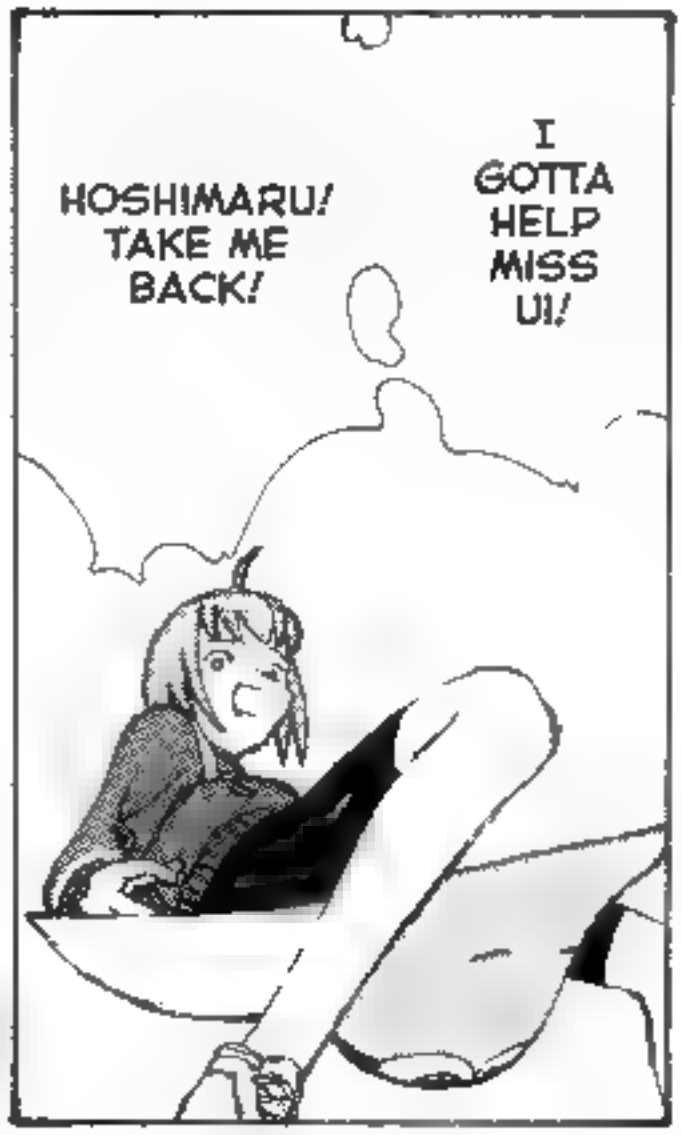
GSHOK

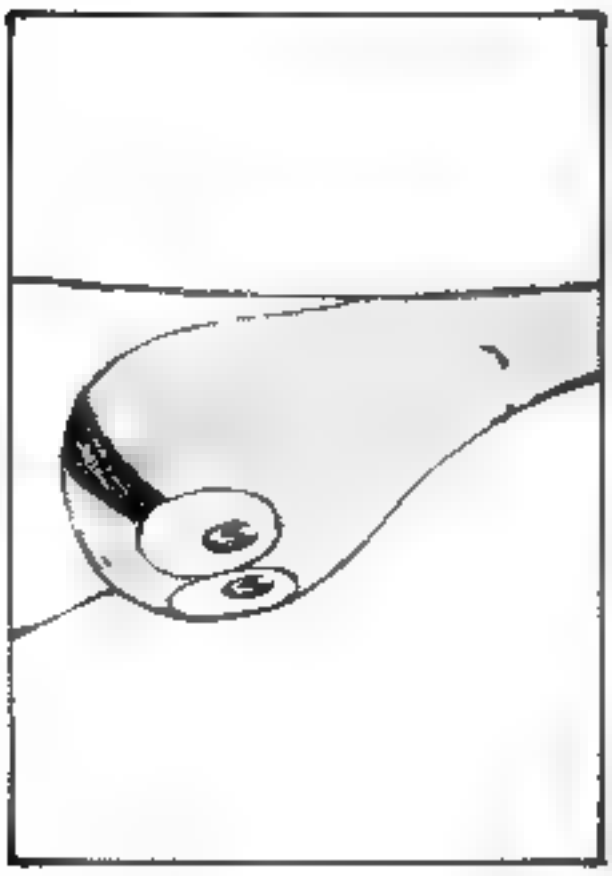
HOSHI-
MARU!

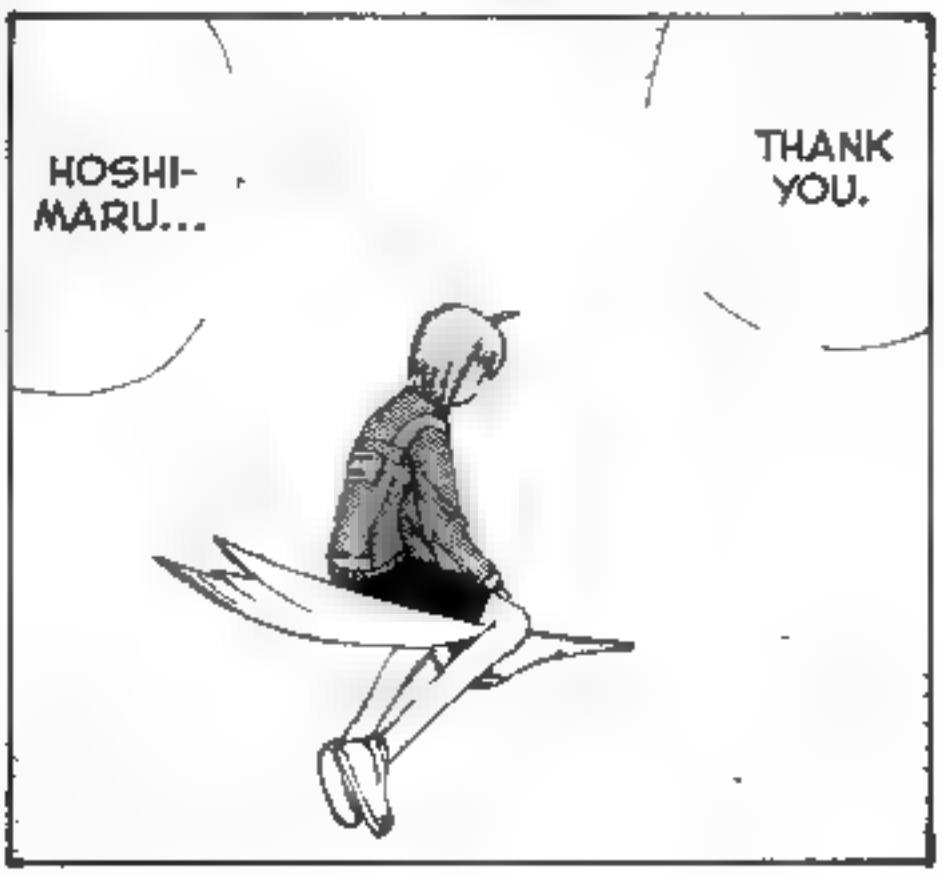
BRAZZAK

33

AHH!


HOSHIMARU! TAKE ME BACK!
I GOTTA HELP MISS U!




HOSHI-MARU...
THANK YOU.

THWD

AH!
OH!

SHE'S--!
MISS
OZAWA!
SHE FELL
DOWN!

OZAWA?
ARE
YOU
OKAY?

WHAT
WAS
THAT
NOISE?

3-LILY
OZAWA

MISS UI! WAKE UP!!

SHIINA.

TSU- TSURU- MARU ?!

RRRR

MMM

THERE'S A HOSPITAL DOWN THE HILL.

16

TSURU-MARU, *HURRY.*

I KNOW.

SHE WON'T TRY ANYTHING ONCE WE'RE IN TOWN...

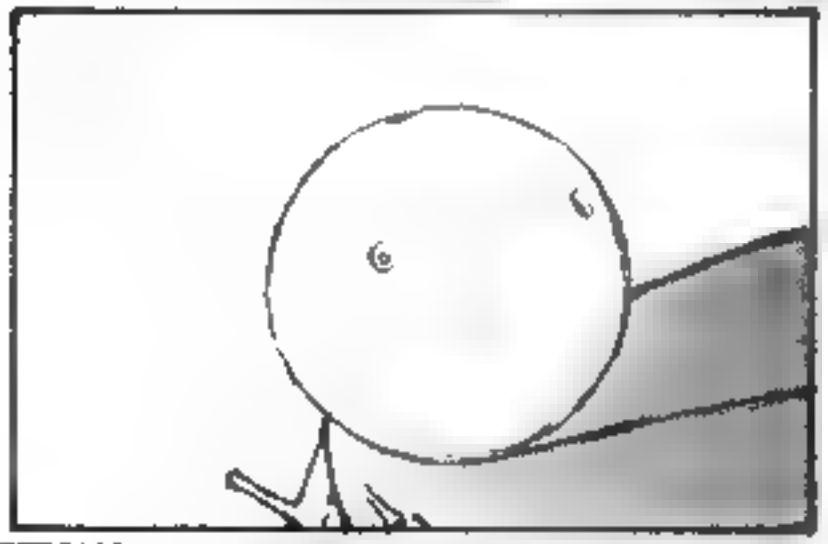
NORIO. HOW'S IT THERE?

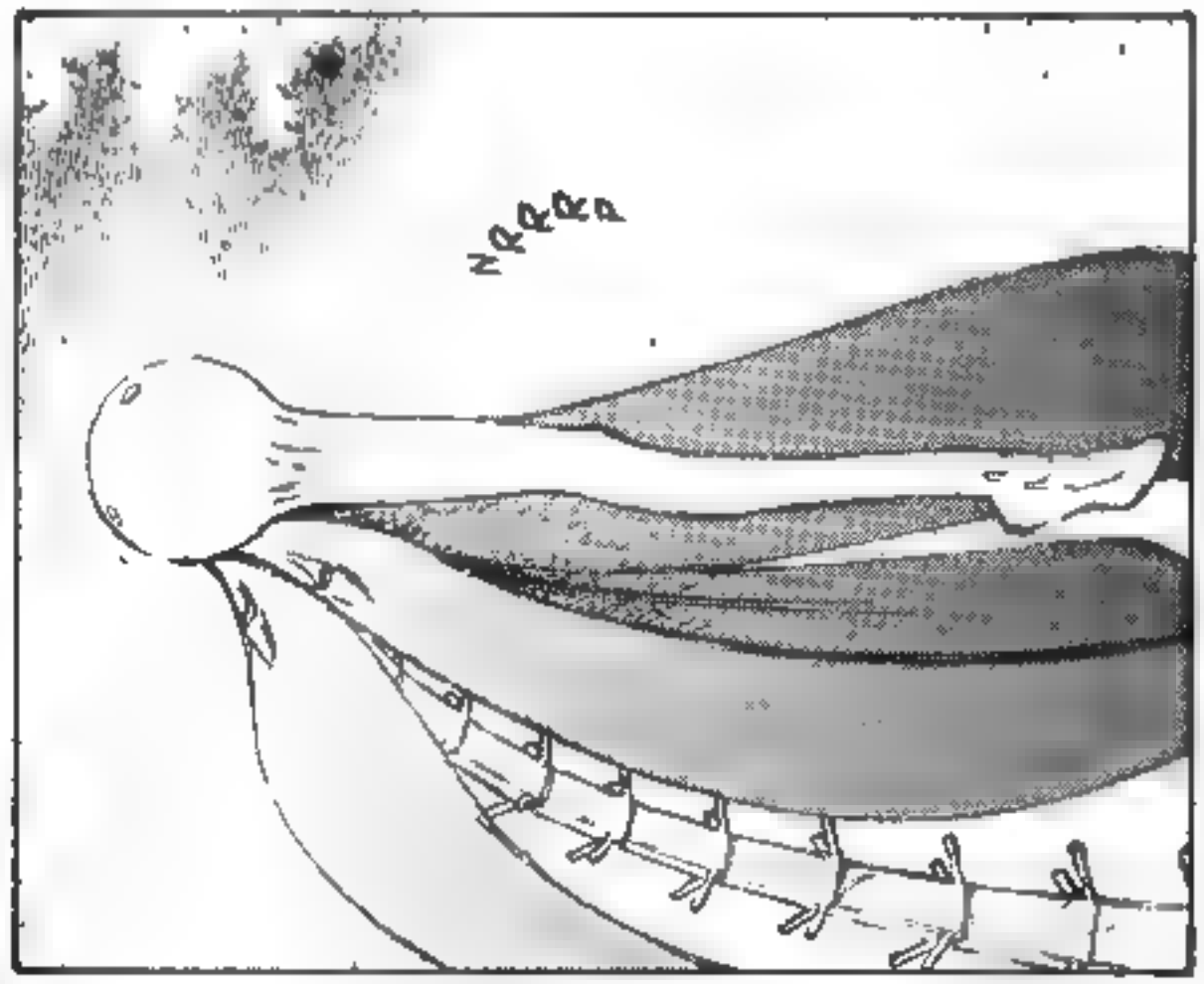
ALL OVER.

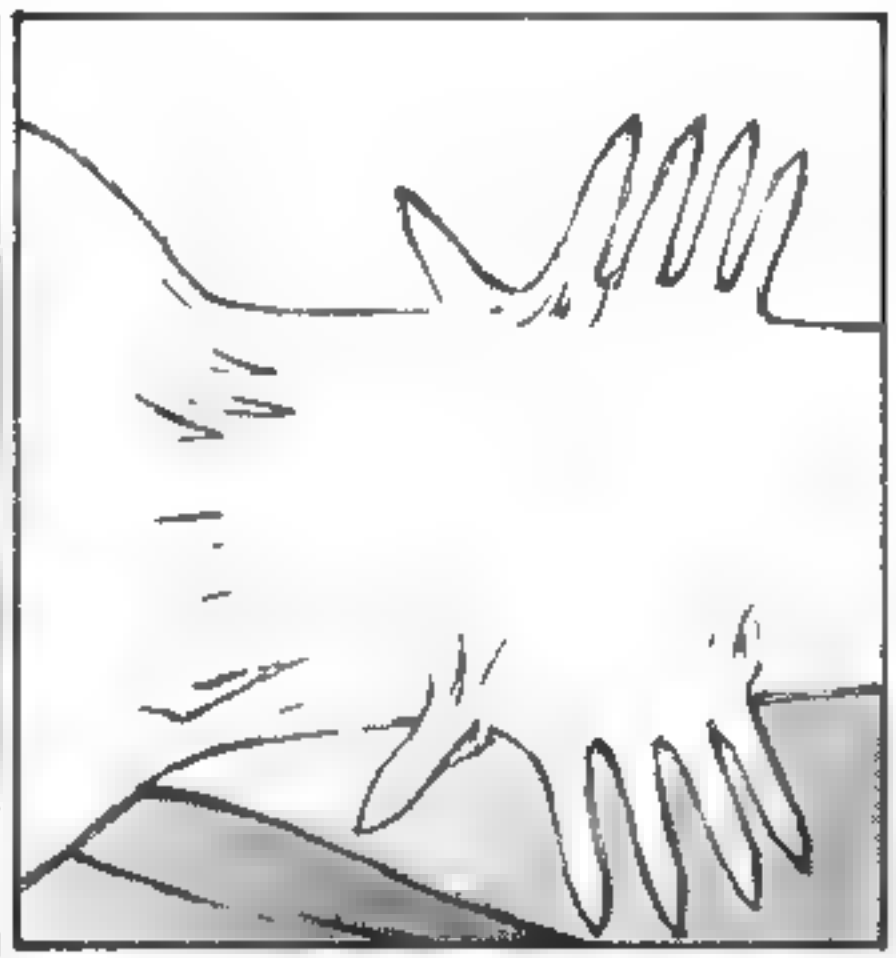
GREAT.

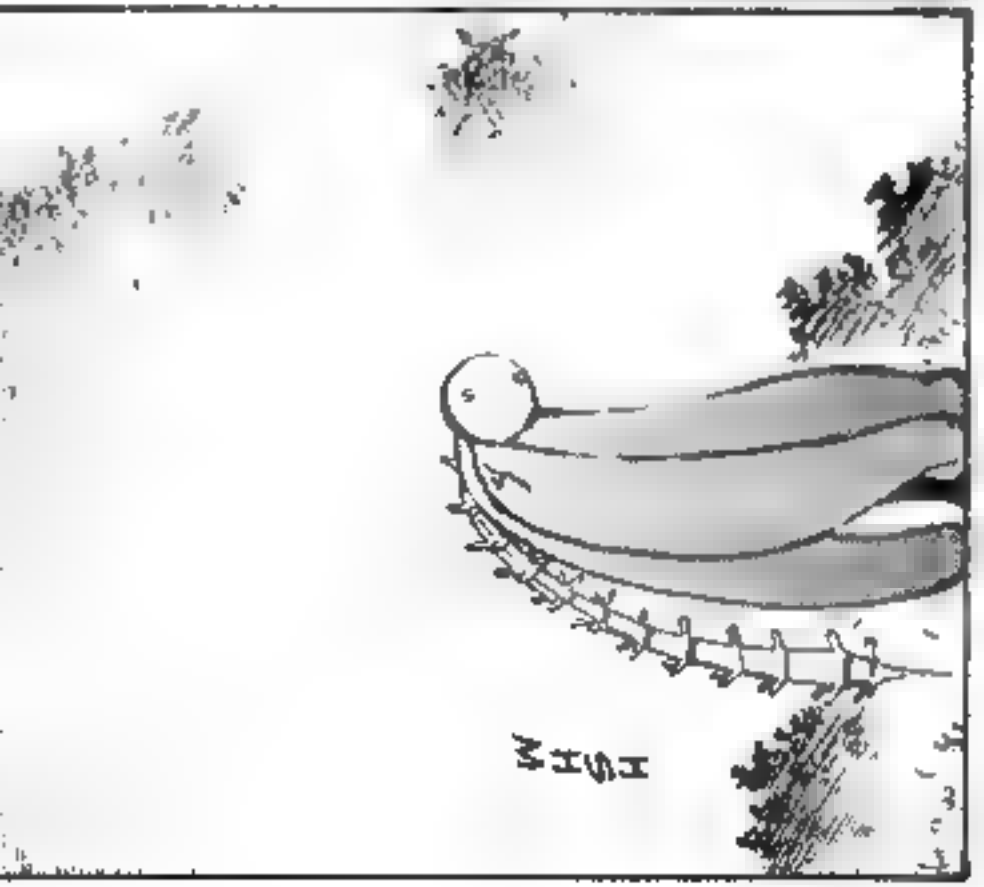
WE PULLED IT OFF.

KRRK




NRRRR



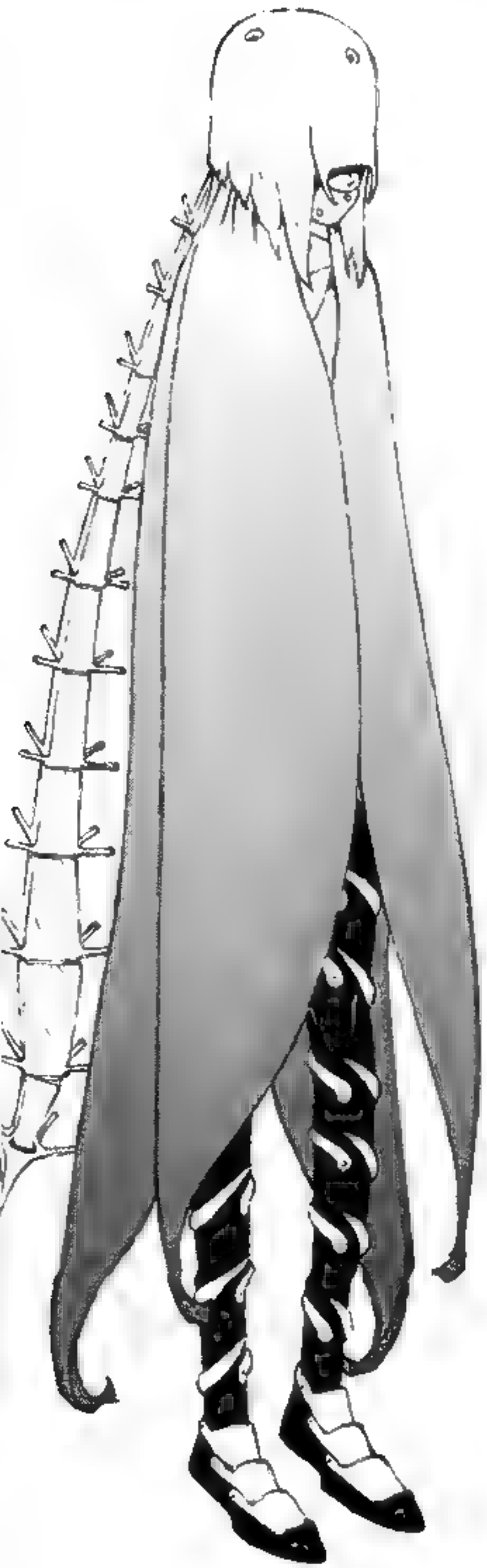

HSHM

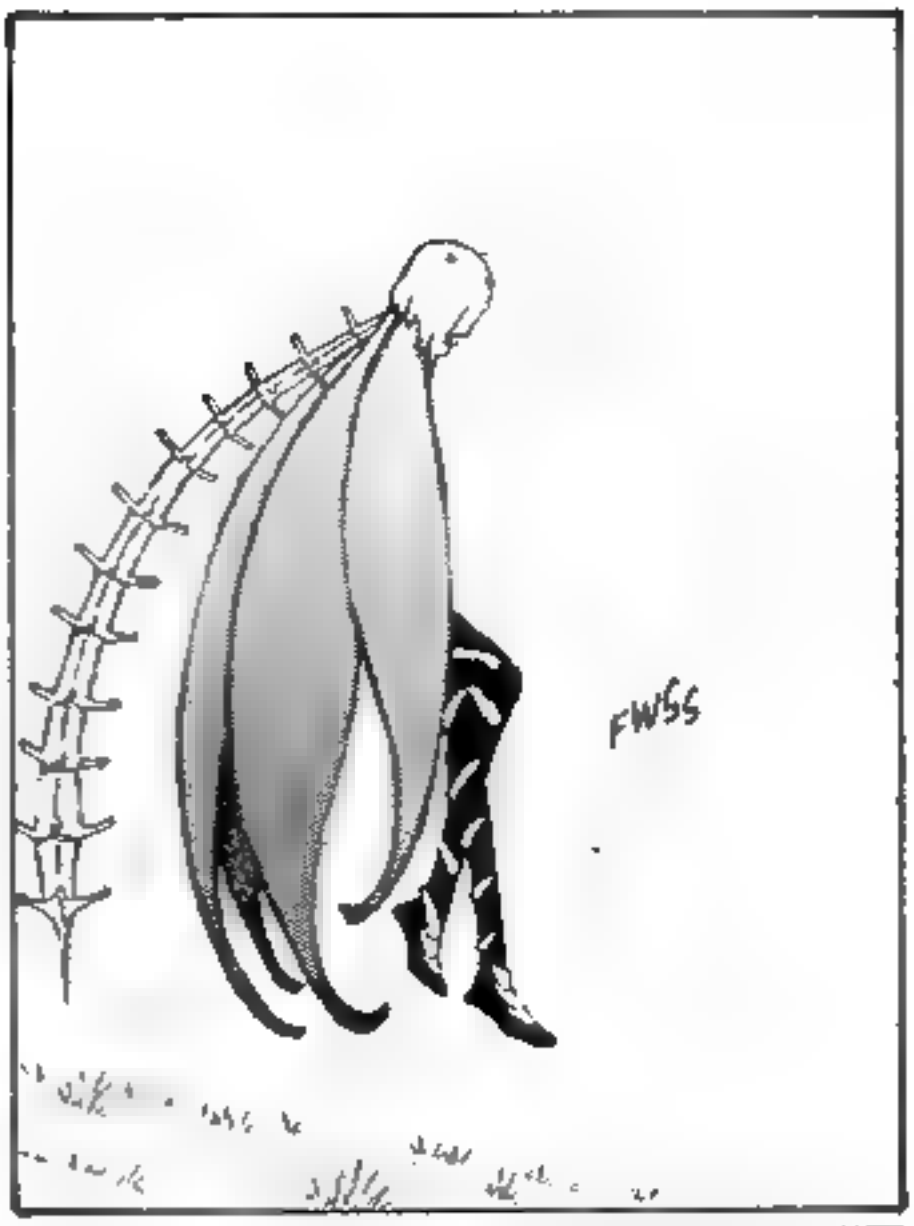
ISHAI

SLRRK

SPRRCH

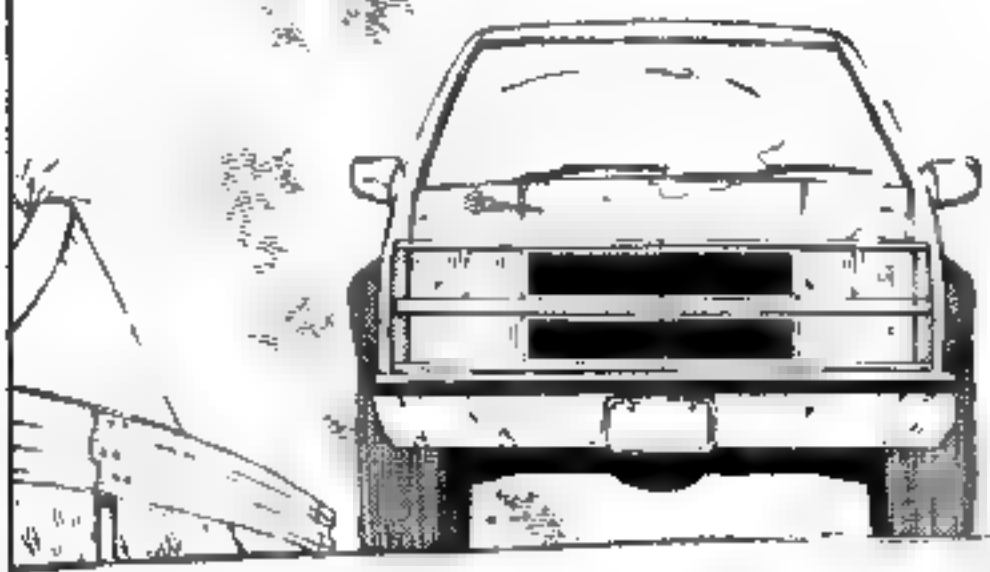
THP

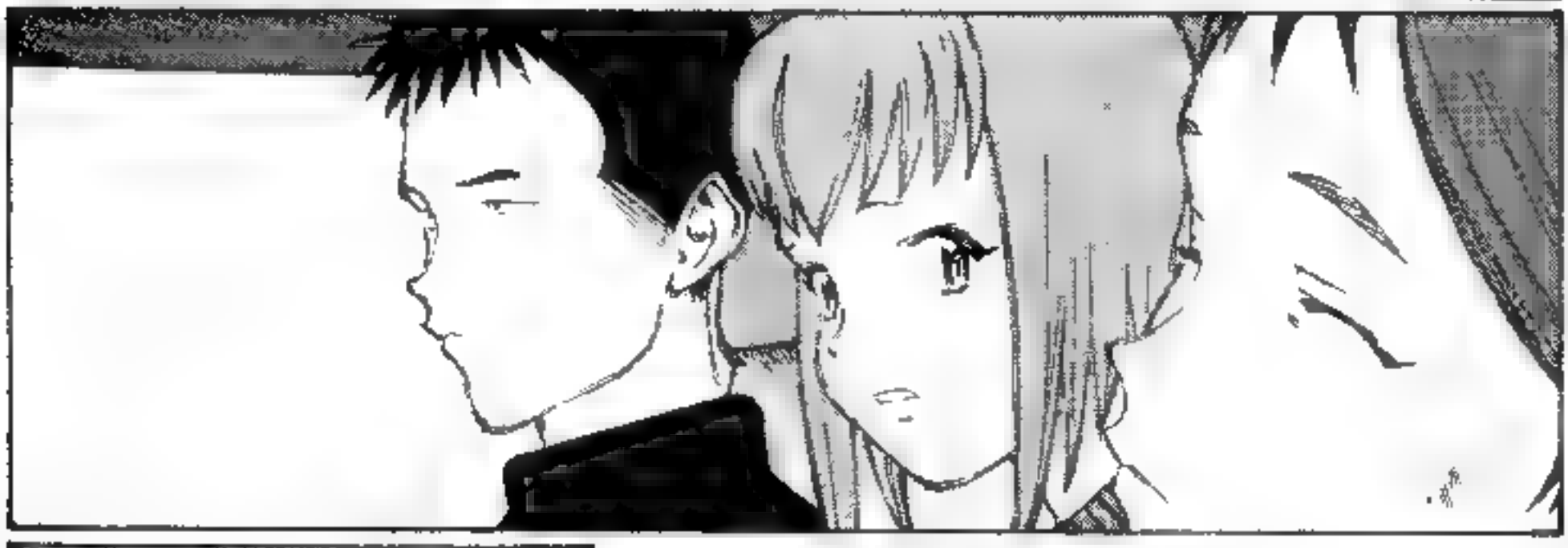


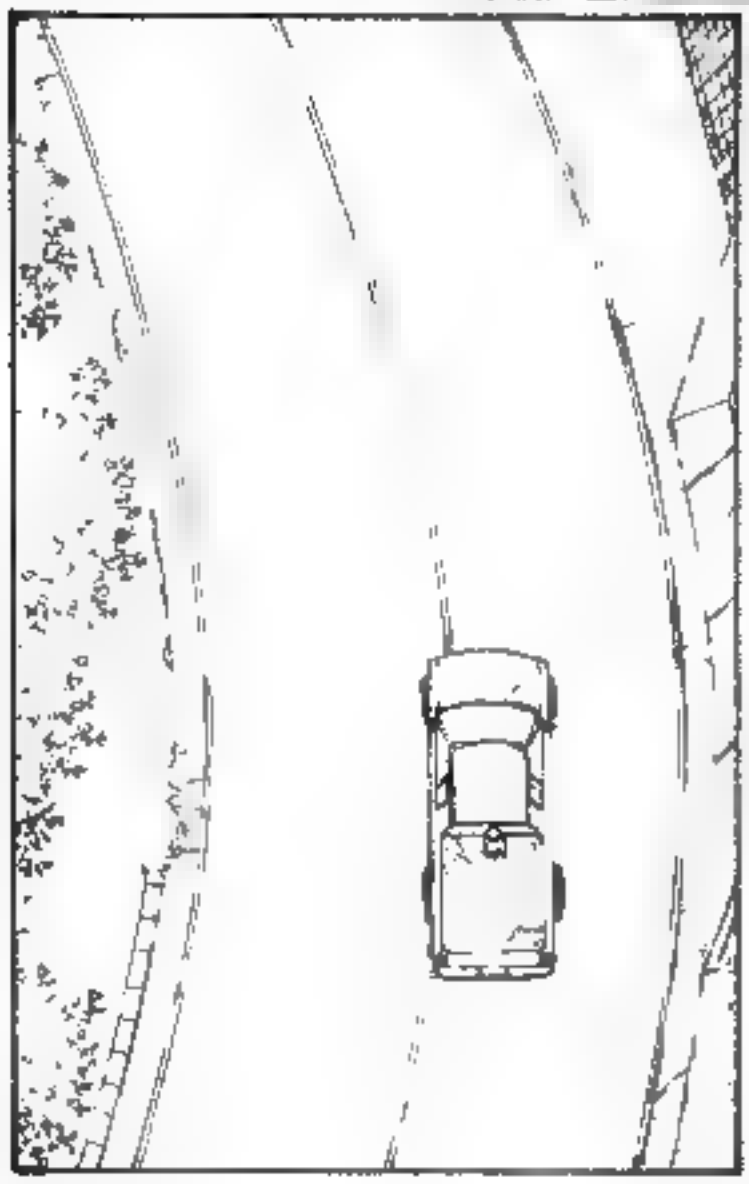

FWSS

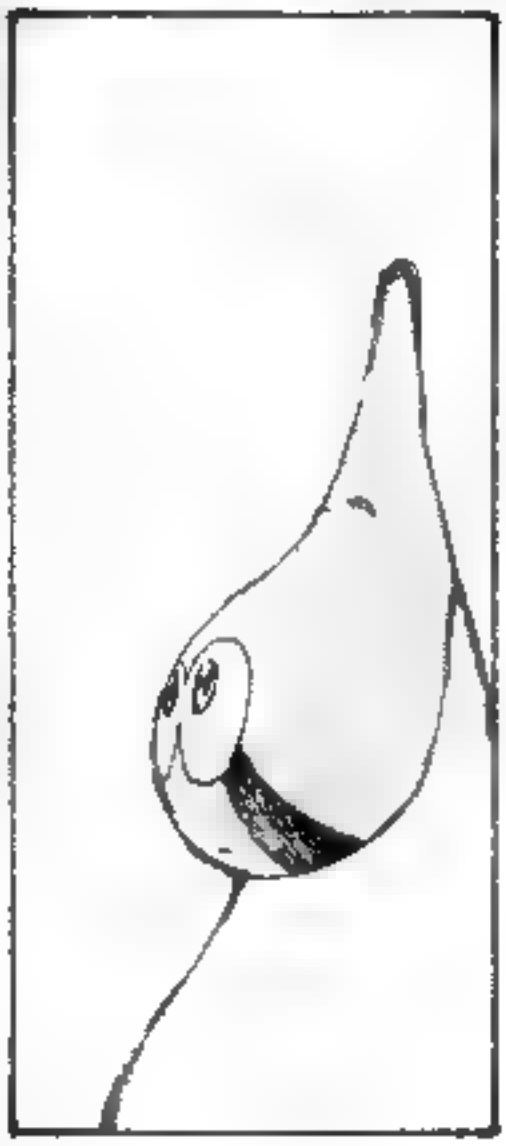
FWOOSH

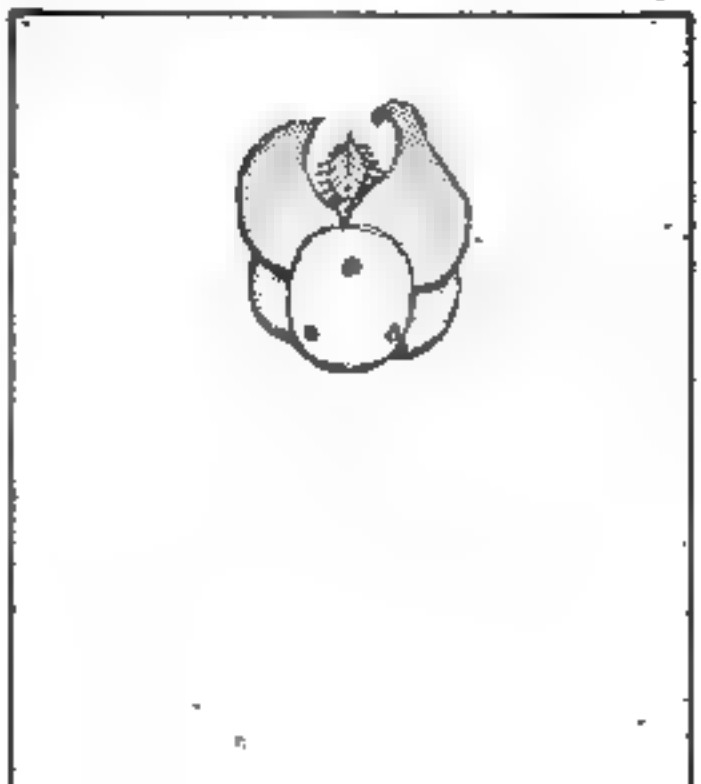
VRMBB











FWHD

KNNCH

AHN ?!

SPRAK

SKREE

THPP

SLRRK

IT'S HER!

WHAM

SKREEK

HOW'D SHE KNOW WHERE WE WERE?!

NORIO!

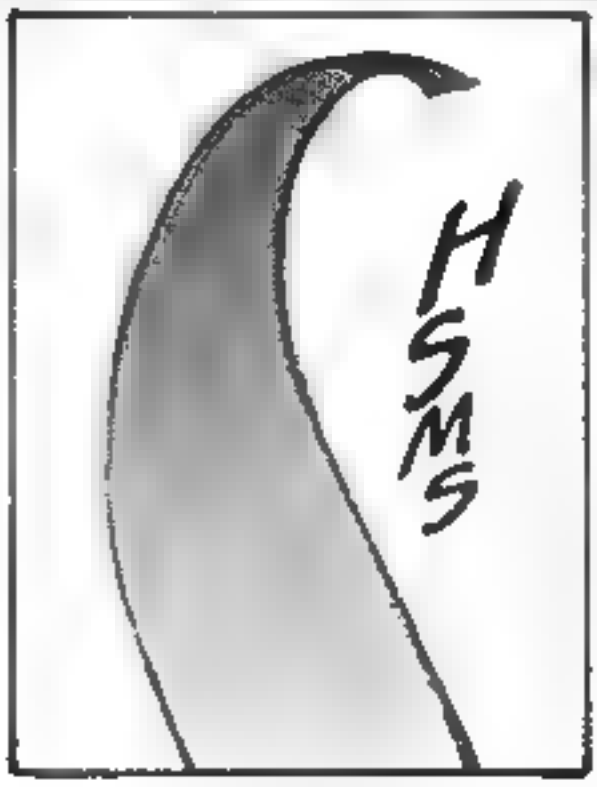
OZAWA! WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

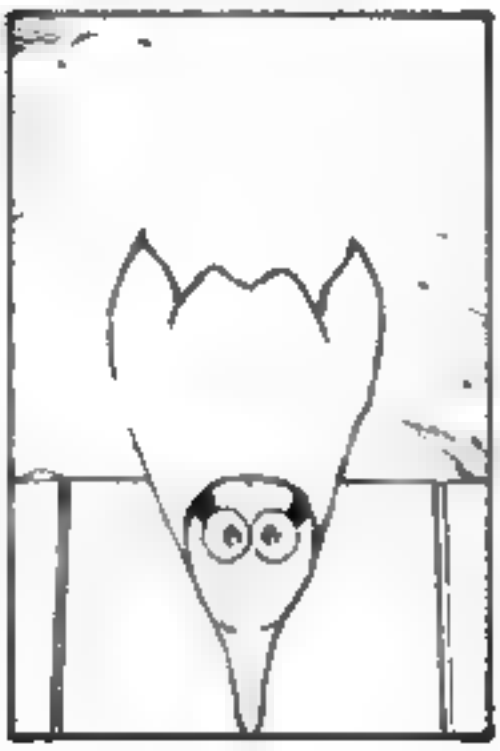
HUH? SHE'S STILL OUT, BUT...

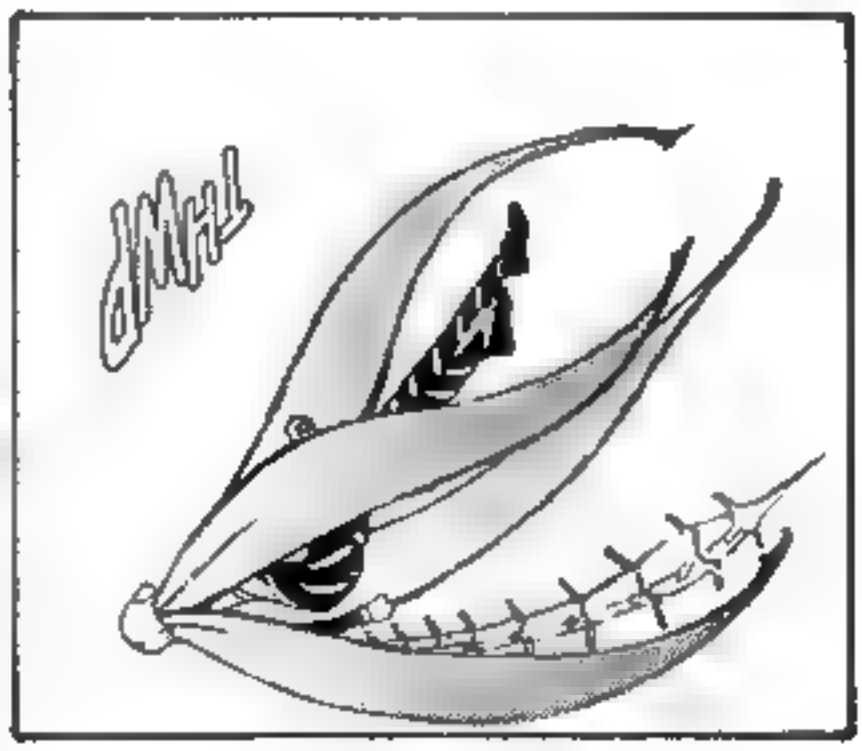
FWWP

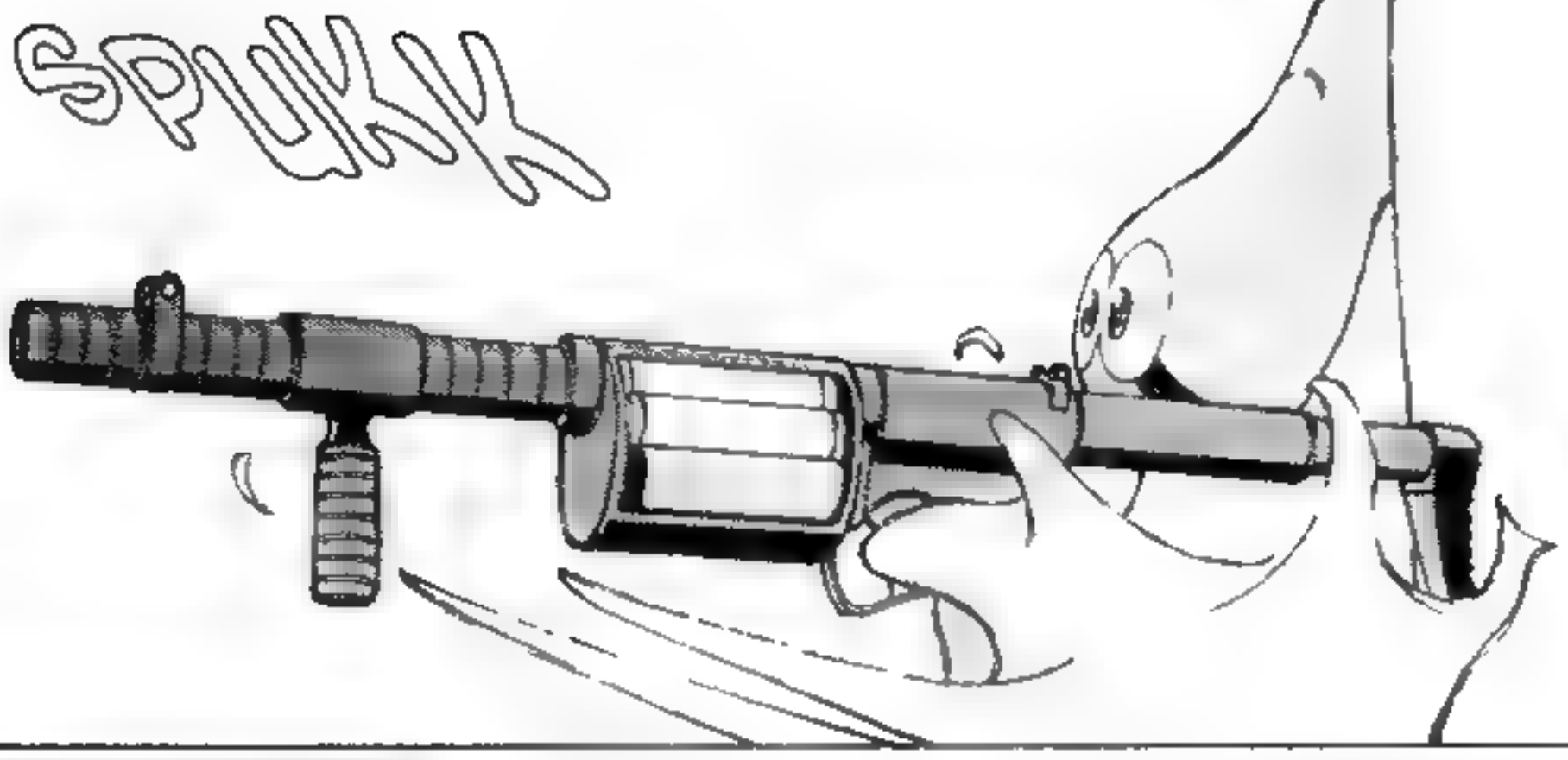
HERE SHE COMES!

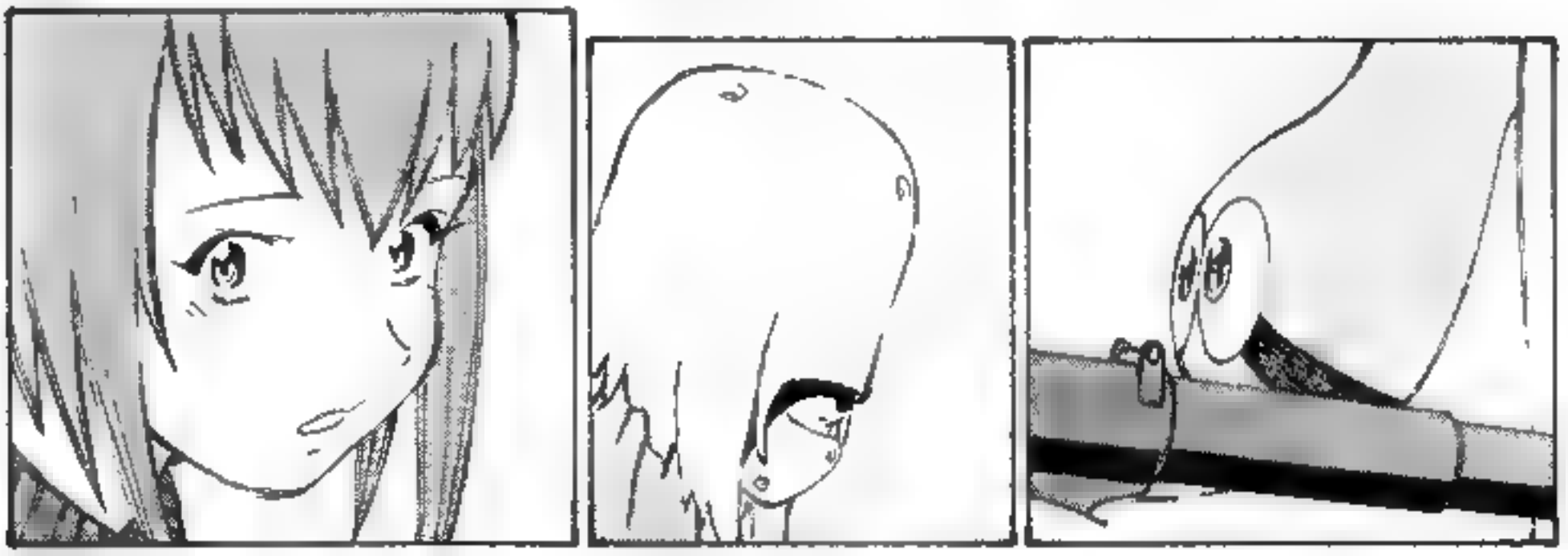
THP








SPUKK



KSHAM
KSHAM
KSHAM
THWUK
SHUK
THUK

NRD

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAK

CHANG CHANG CHANG

HANG ON!!

FWK

SHAPP

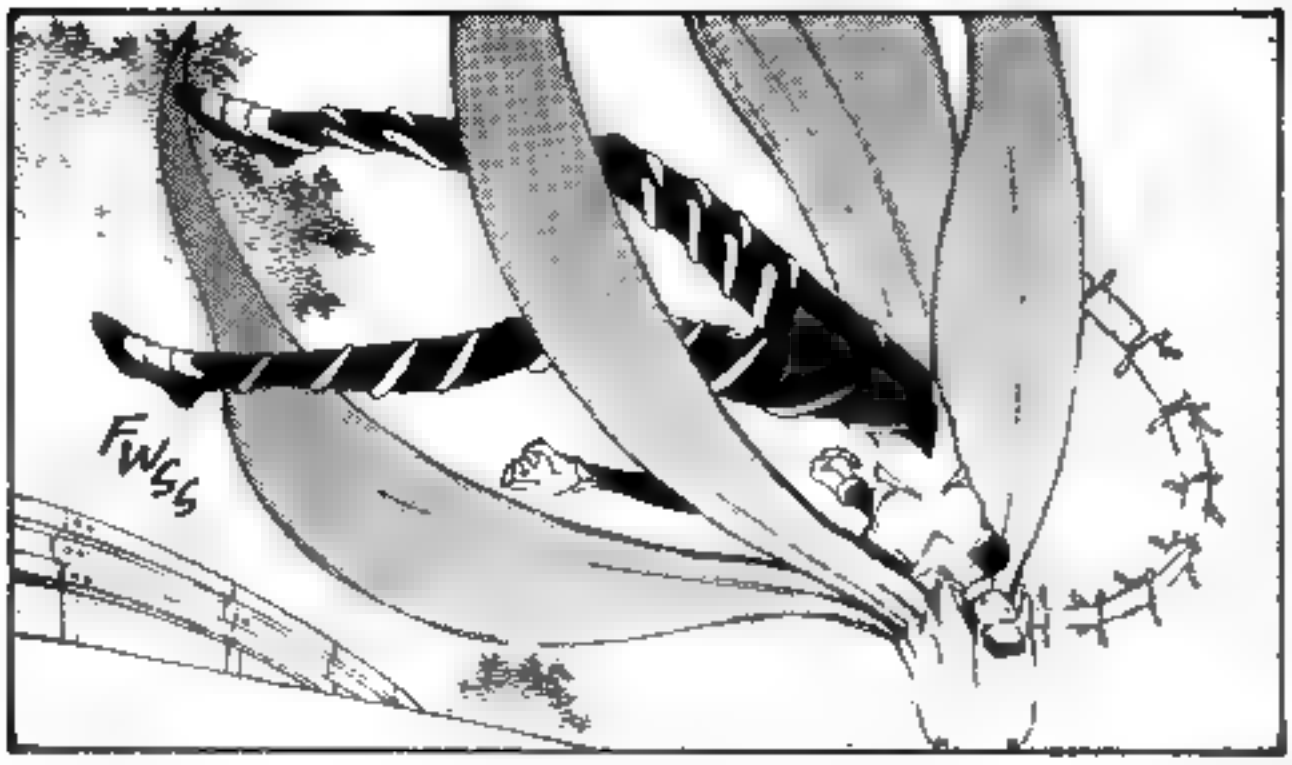
SKREEL

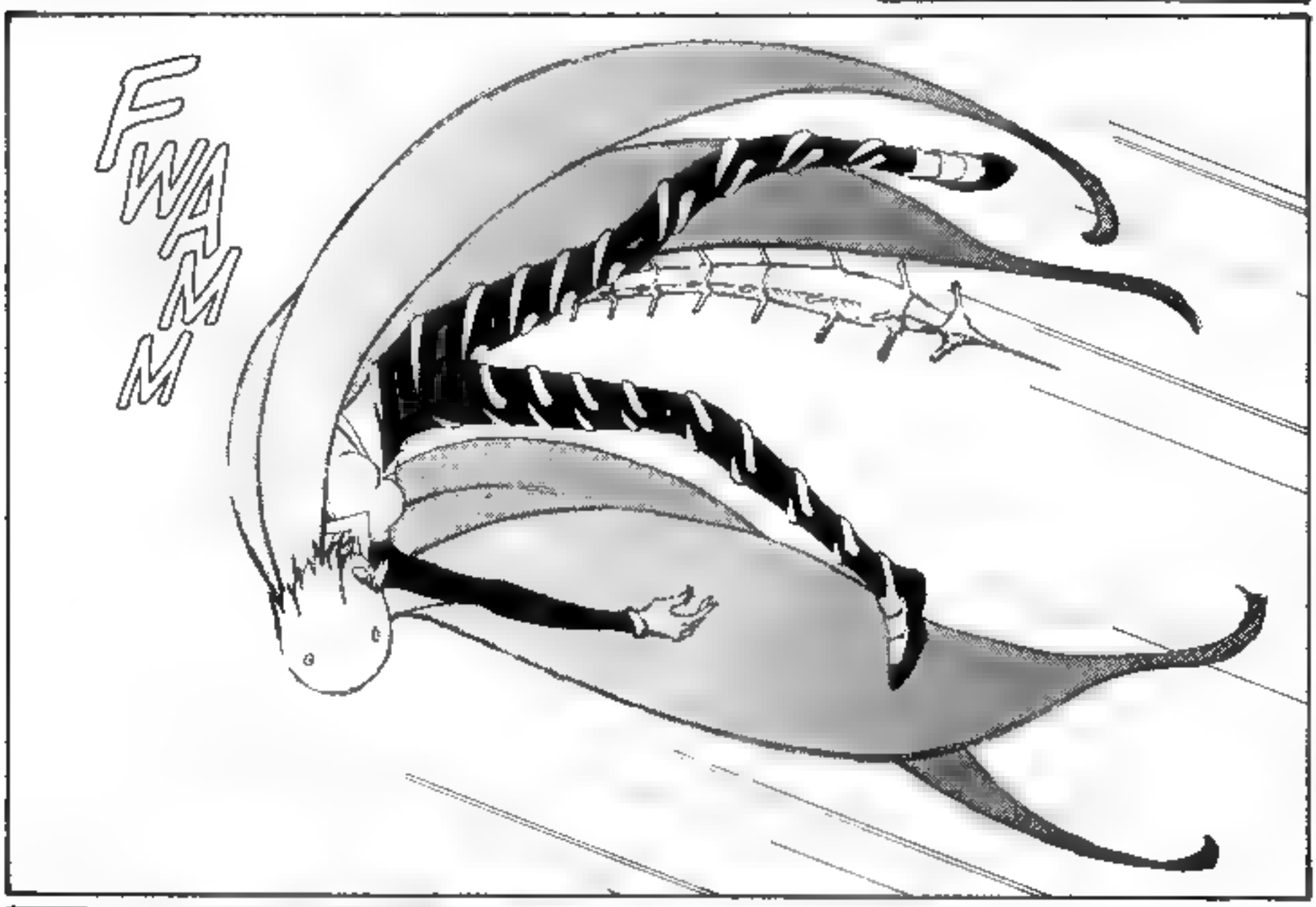
SHREE

VRRMB!

WHAT THE *HELL* IS IT?!

TSURU-MARU...


FWSS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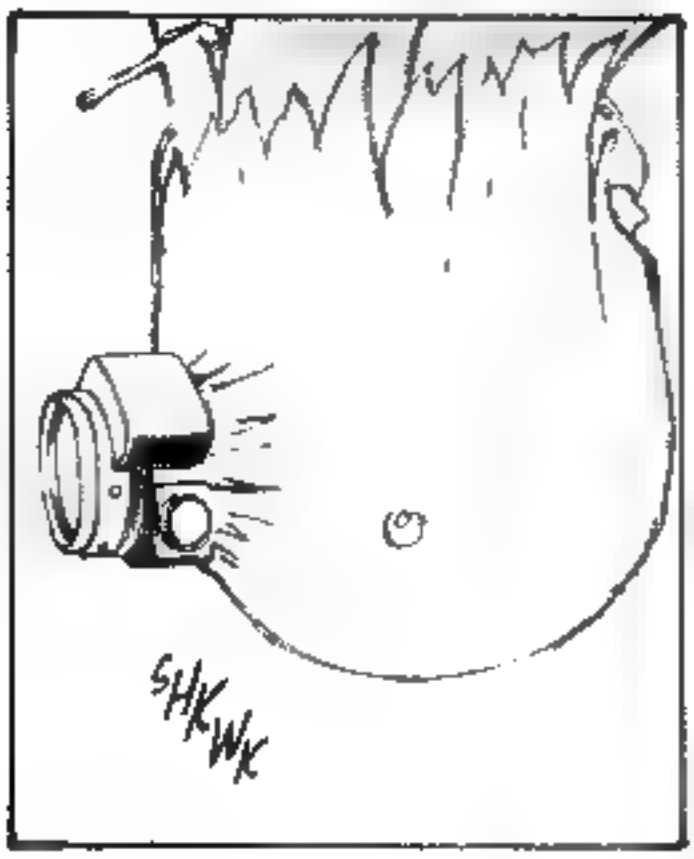
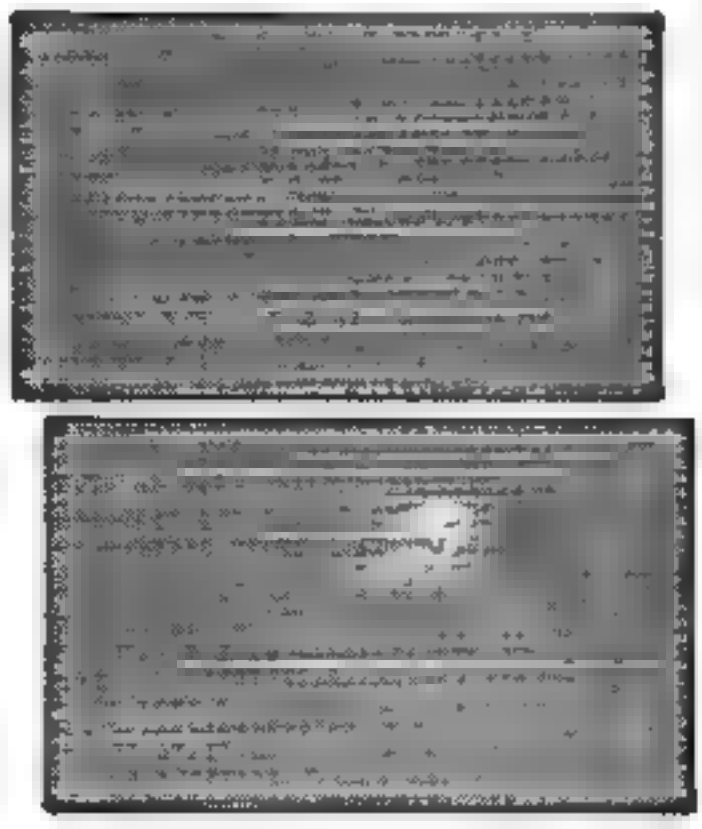
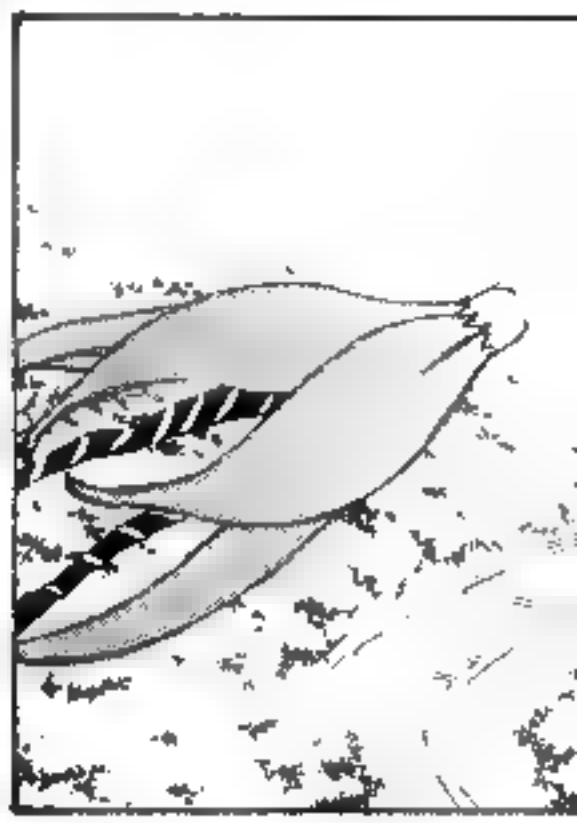

SHKWK





GRMMB

BRAKABRAK

BRAK

SPAK

SDAK

SKREE

SKASH

SKSH

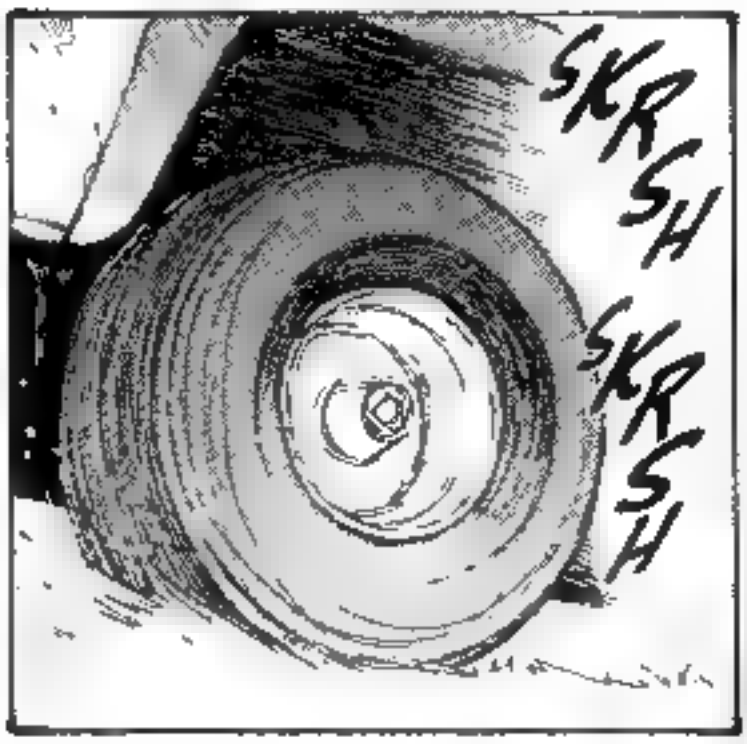
VROMM

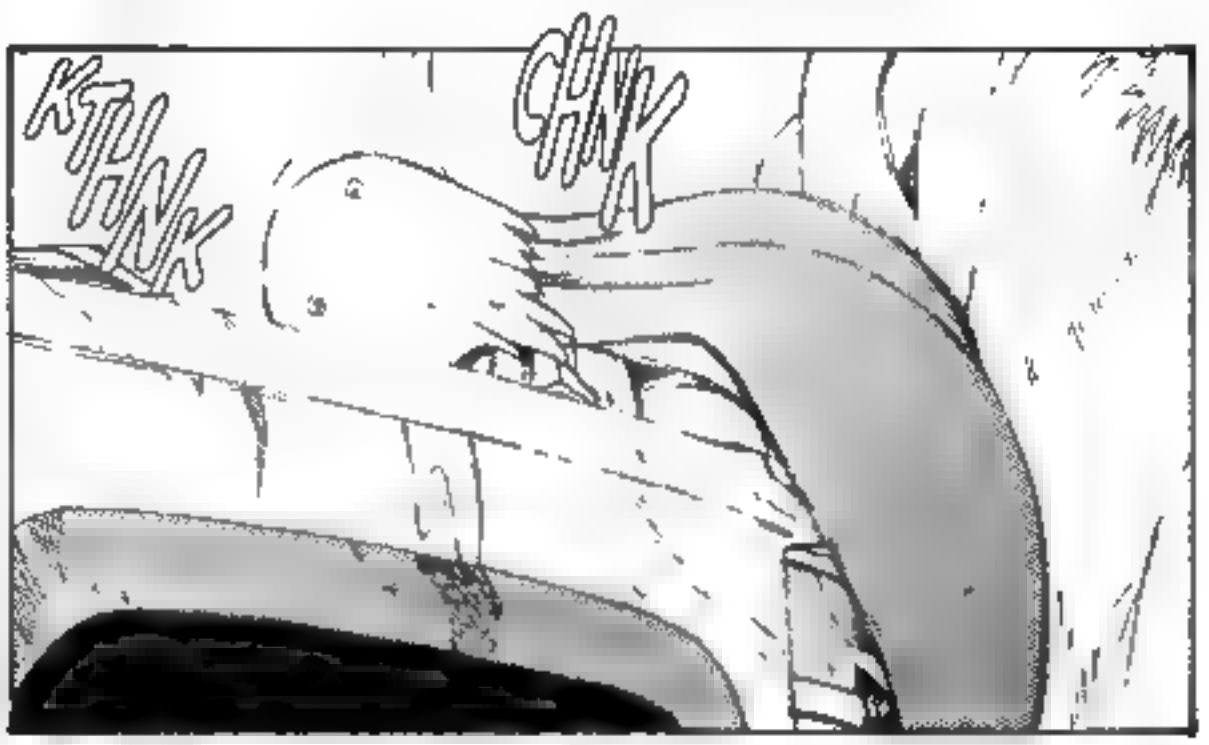
BRAKKA

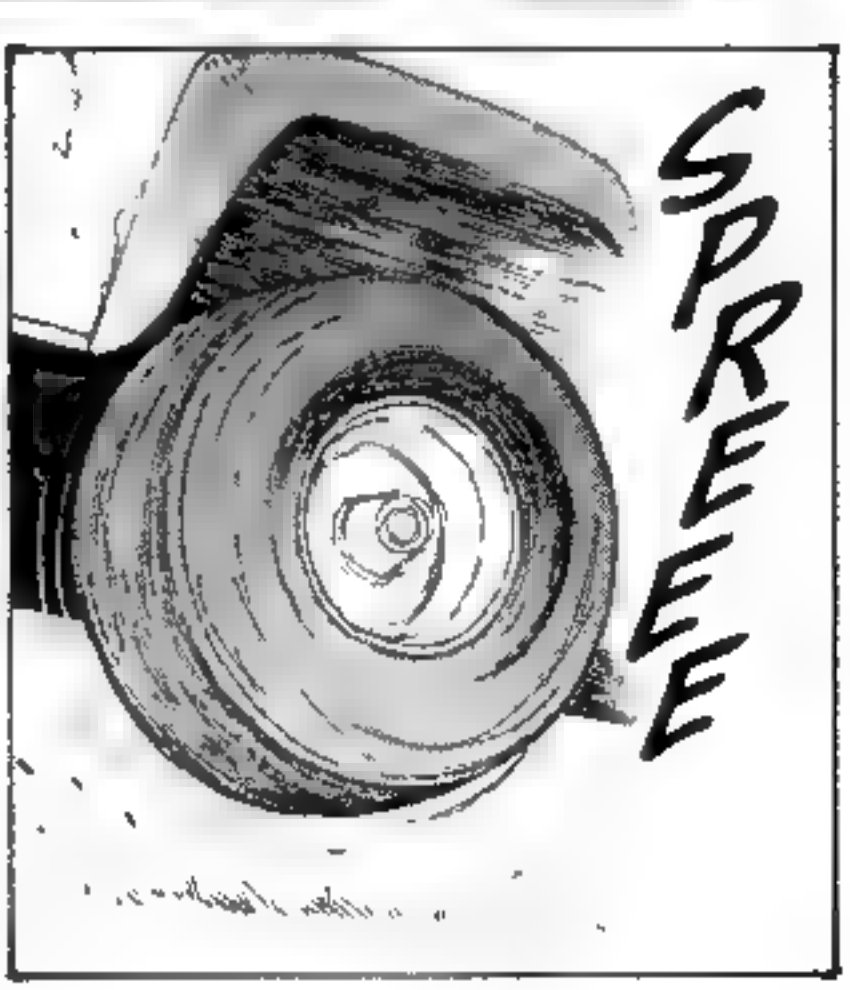
BOHF

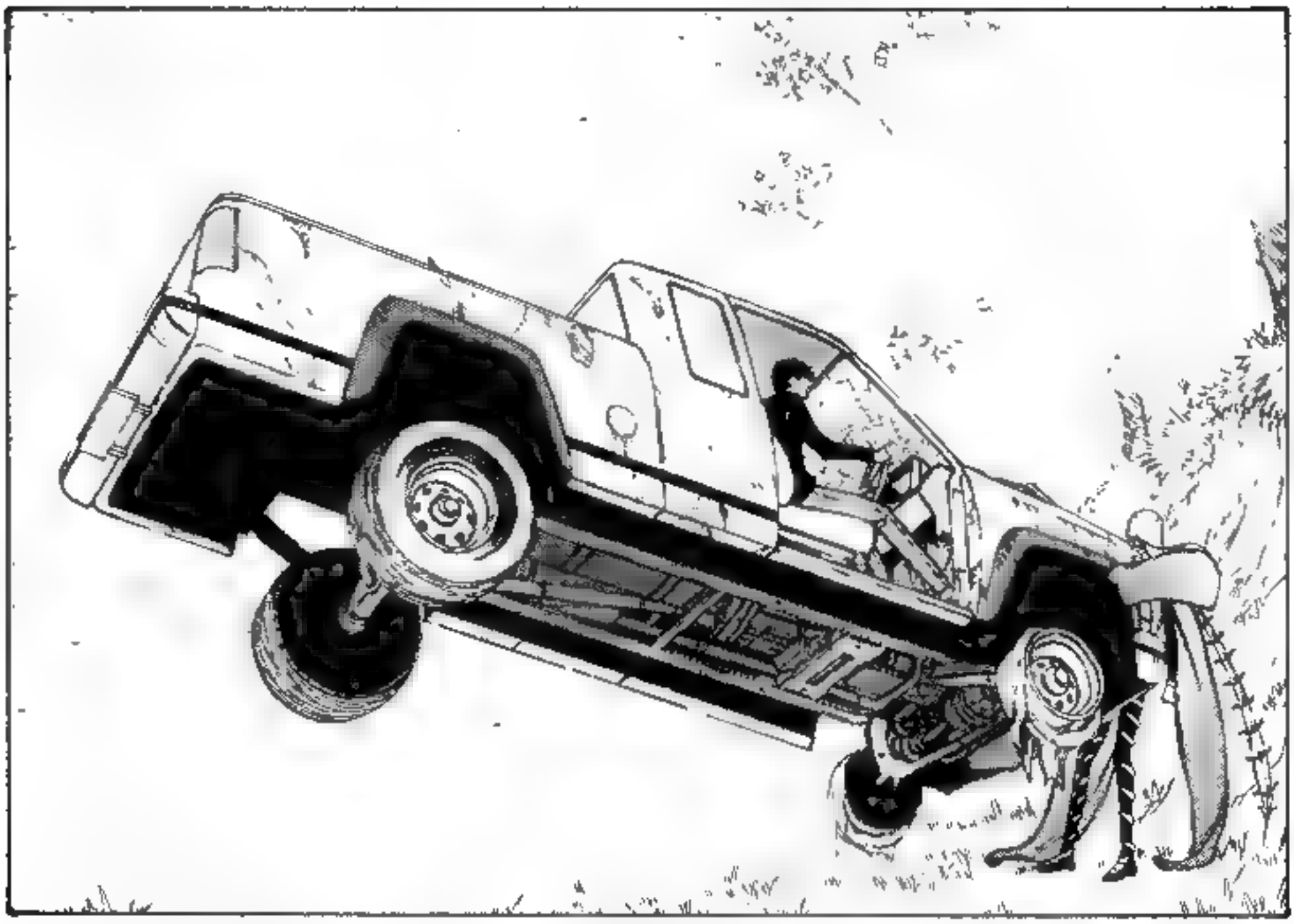
SKR-R-R-R

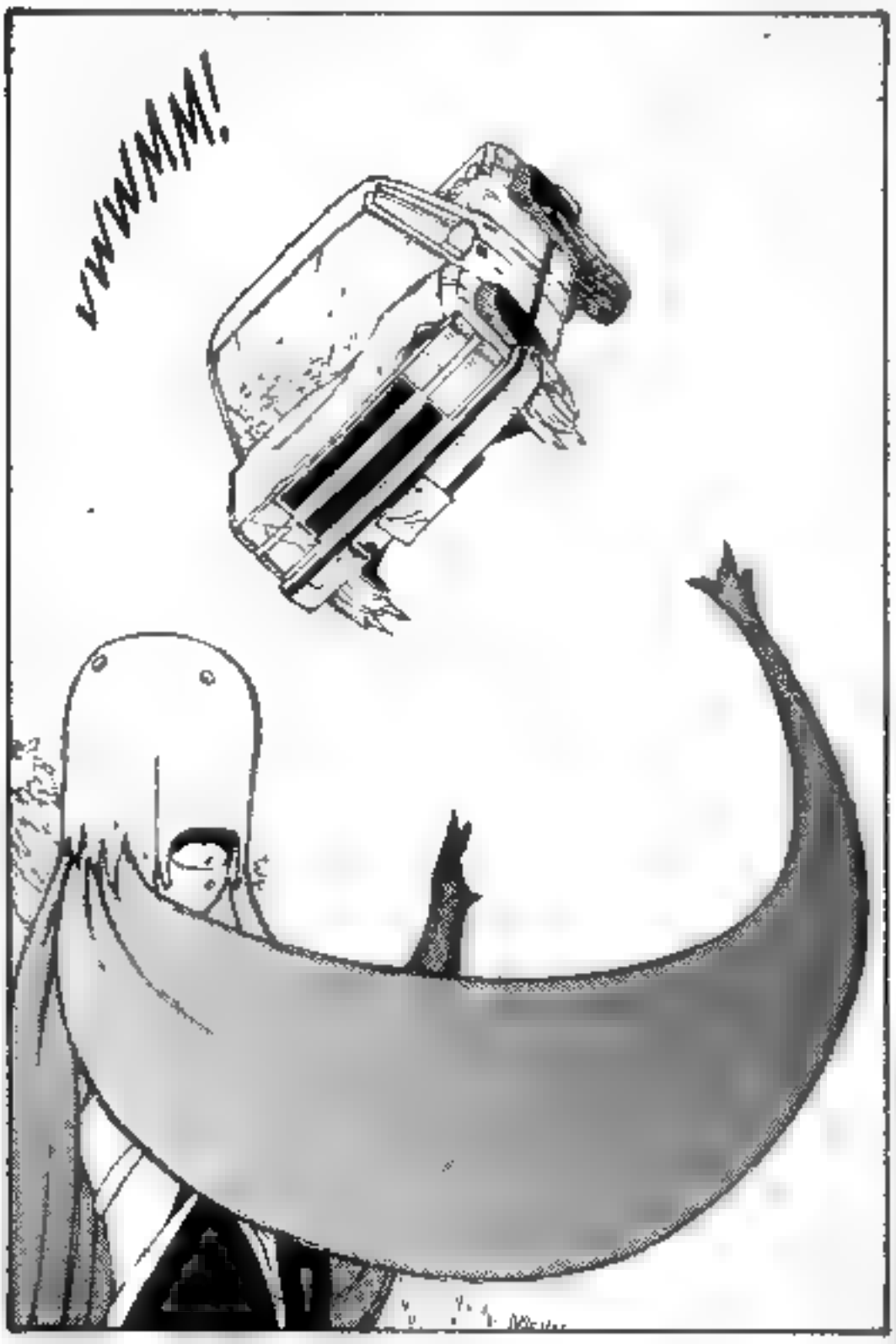
KTHOO

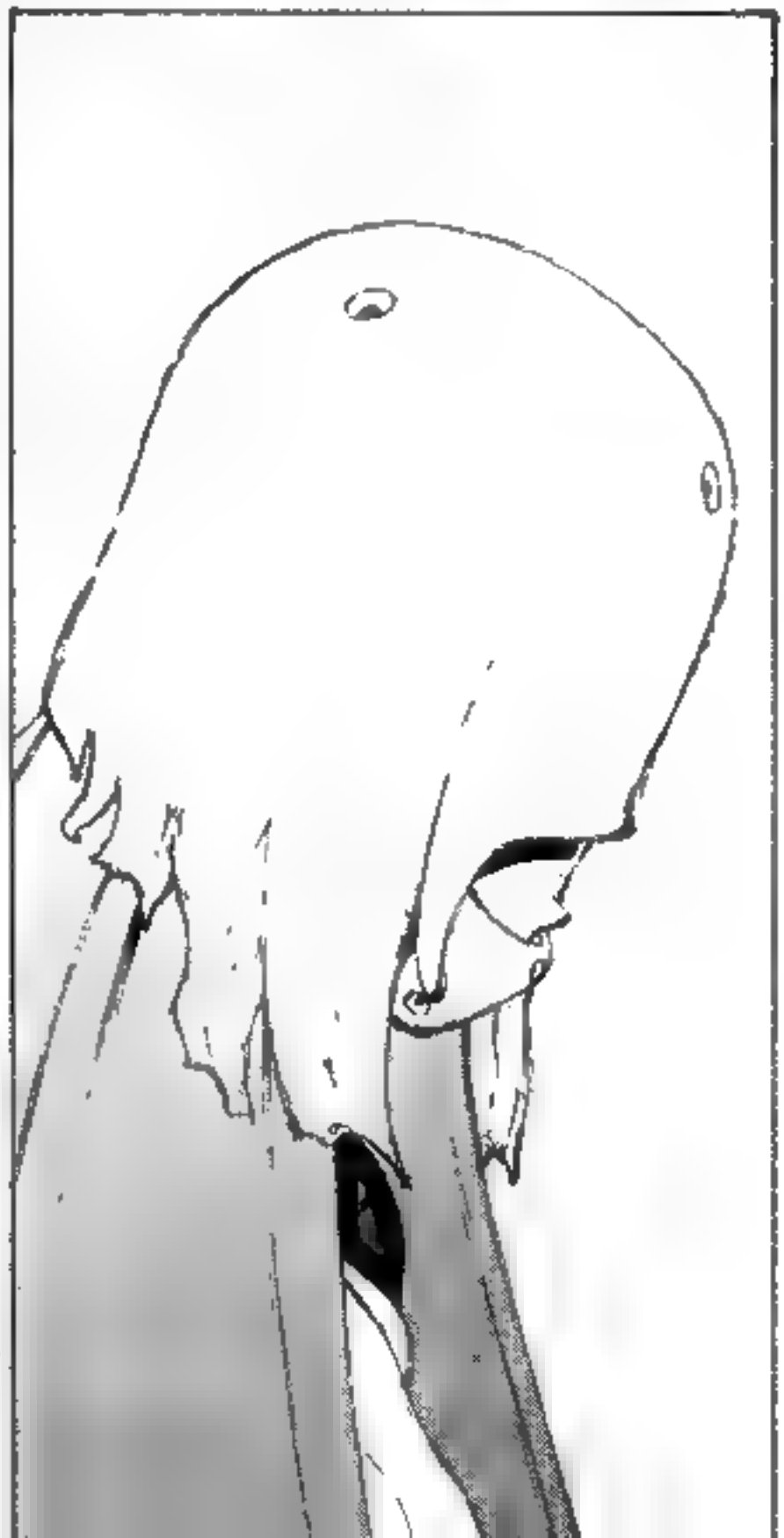

SKRSH
SKRSH

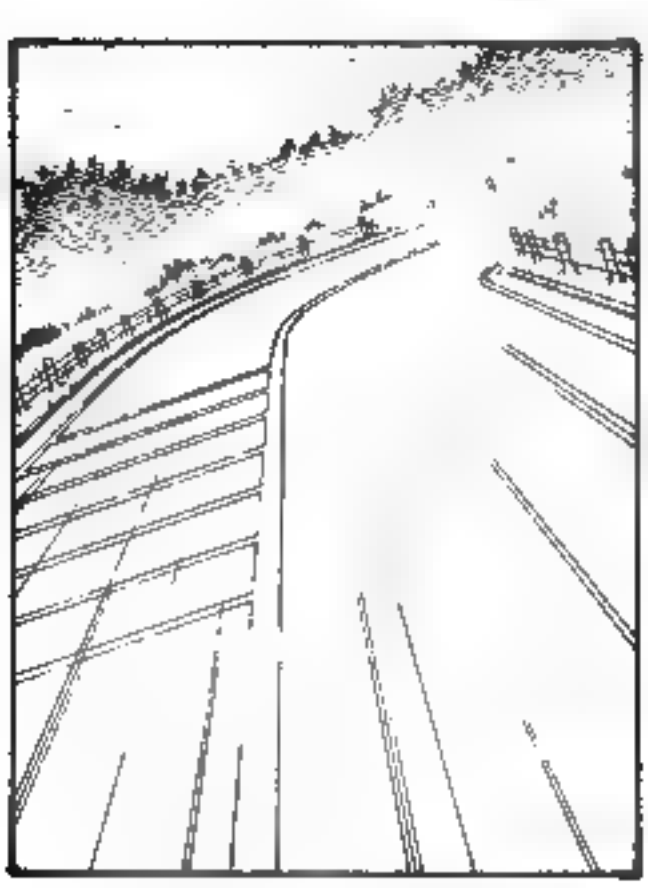

KTHNK
CHNK


SPREEE



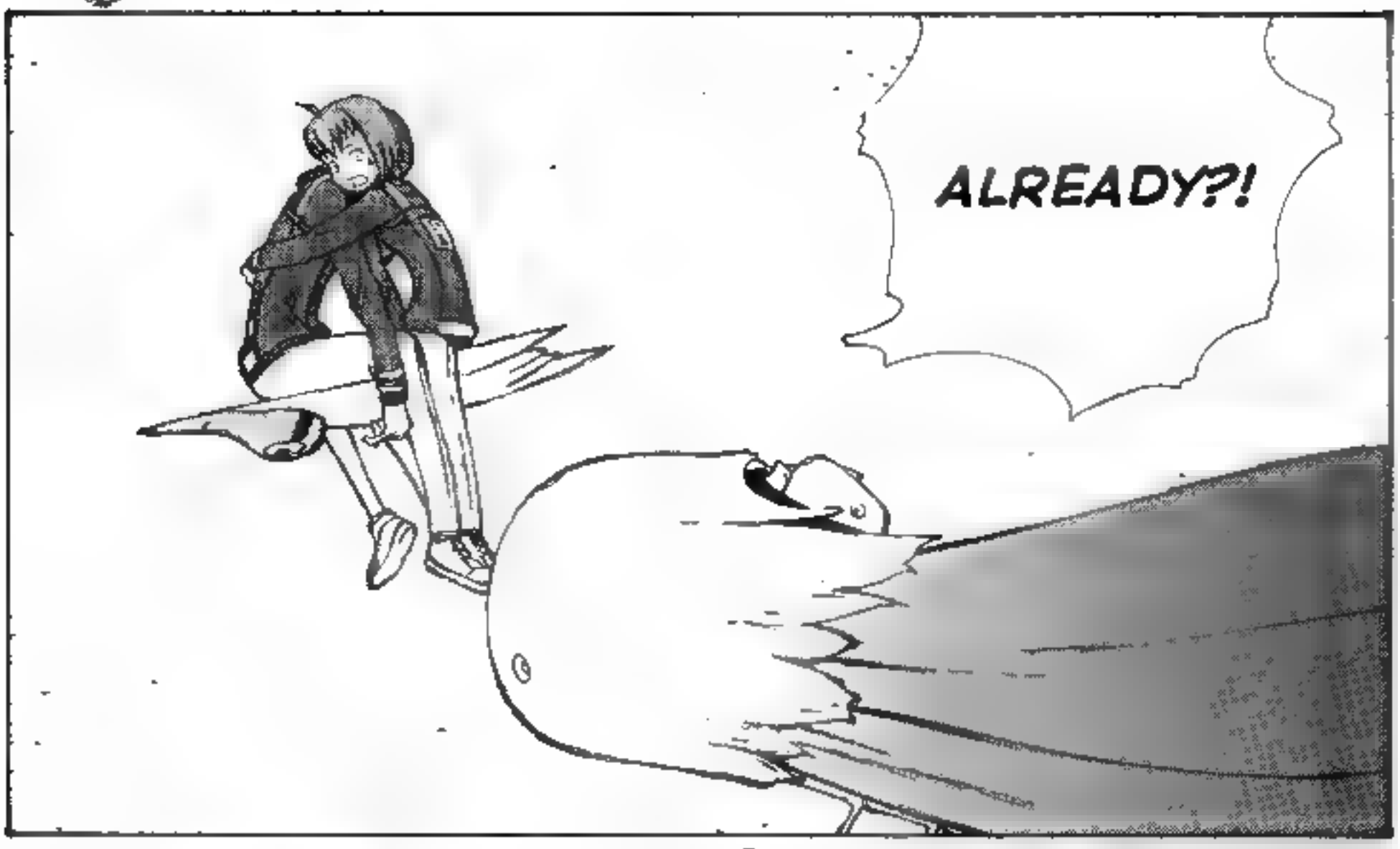

VWWMM!





HOSHI-
MARU, GIVE
IT YOUR
BEST!

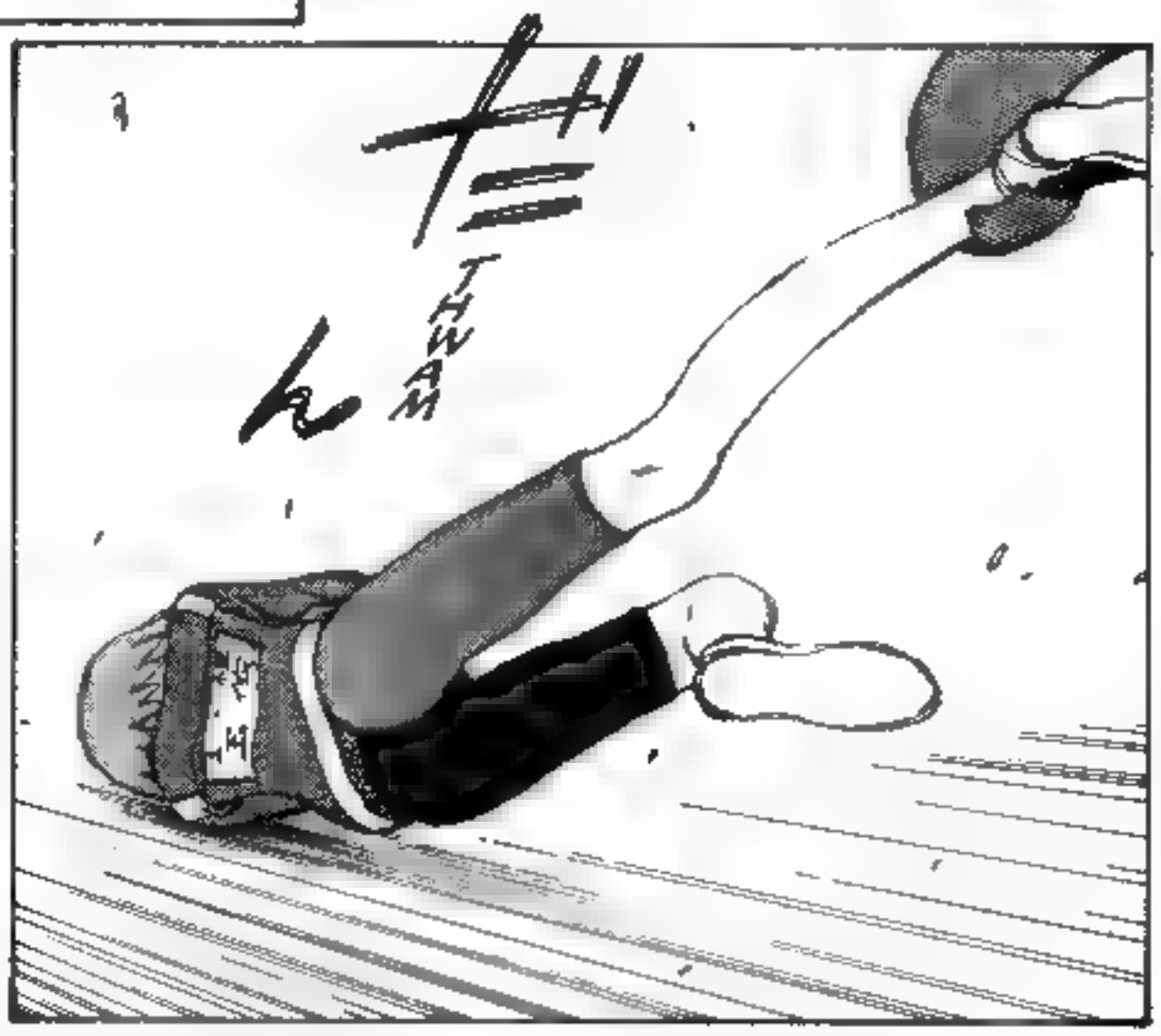
I DON'T KNOW
THE PLACE, SO
I'LL JUST HAVE
TO FOLLOW
THE ROAD.

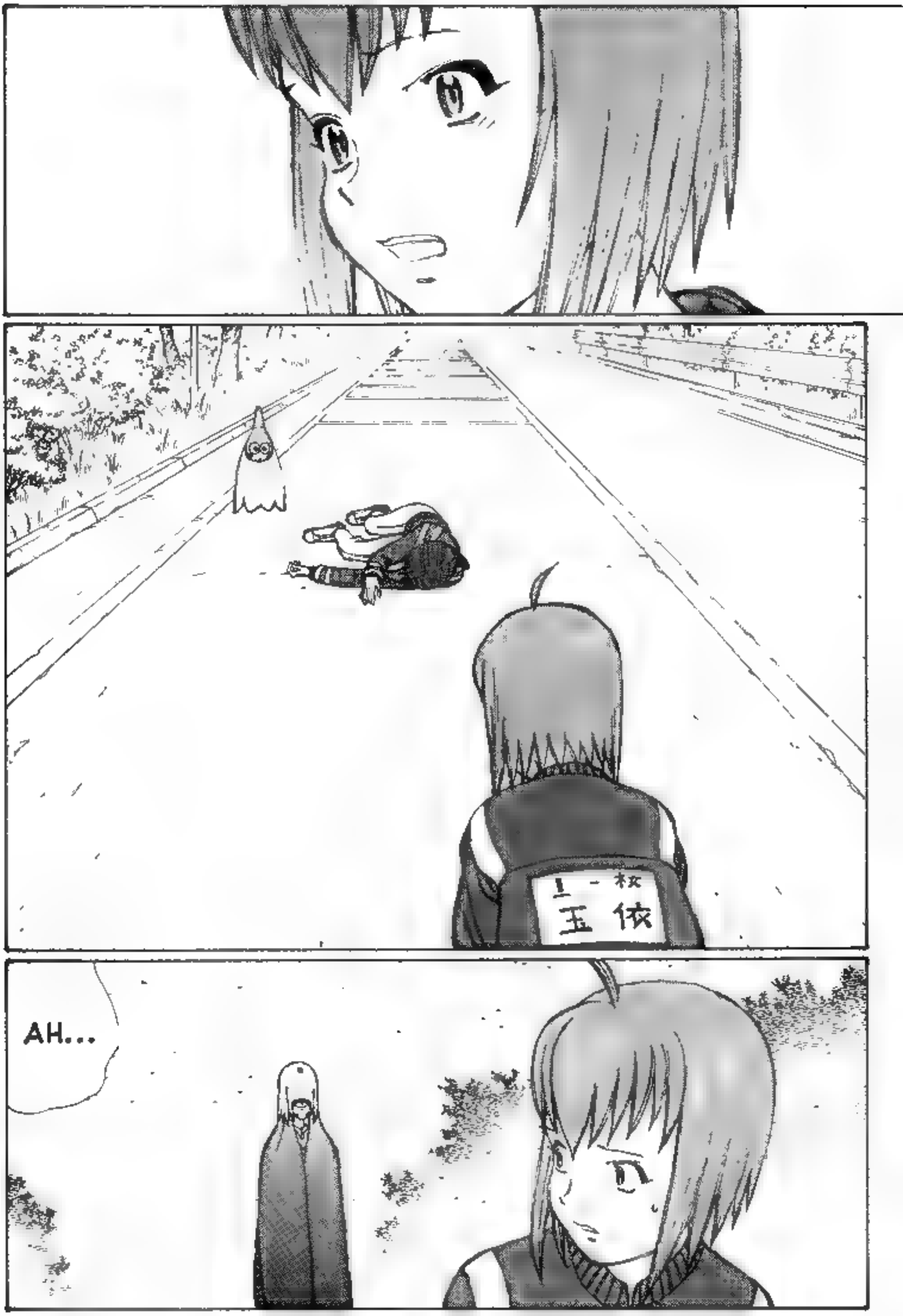

ALREADY?!

AH!

SHRKK

1"
FWD 4"


4"
4" FWD


1 - 枚
玉 依
AH...

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOUR FRIEND'S *HURT?*

HOSHI-MARU...

...TAKE MISS UI TO THE HOSPITAL.

HOSHI-
MARU...

Read this way

GO ON AHEAD, OKAY?

IT'S OKAY. I'LL CATCH UP AFTER-WARDS.

KRNCH

IN ANOTHER MESS...

BAD NEWS.

16

AT TIMES LIKE THIS...

I WON'T GIVE UP.

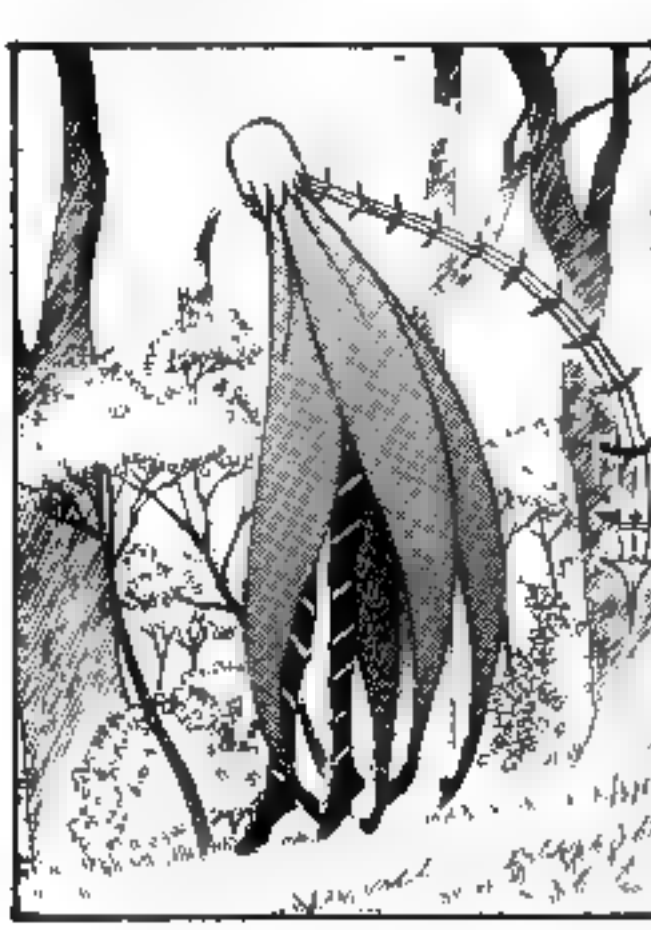
DON'T WORRY.

RIGHT, DAD?

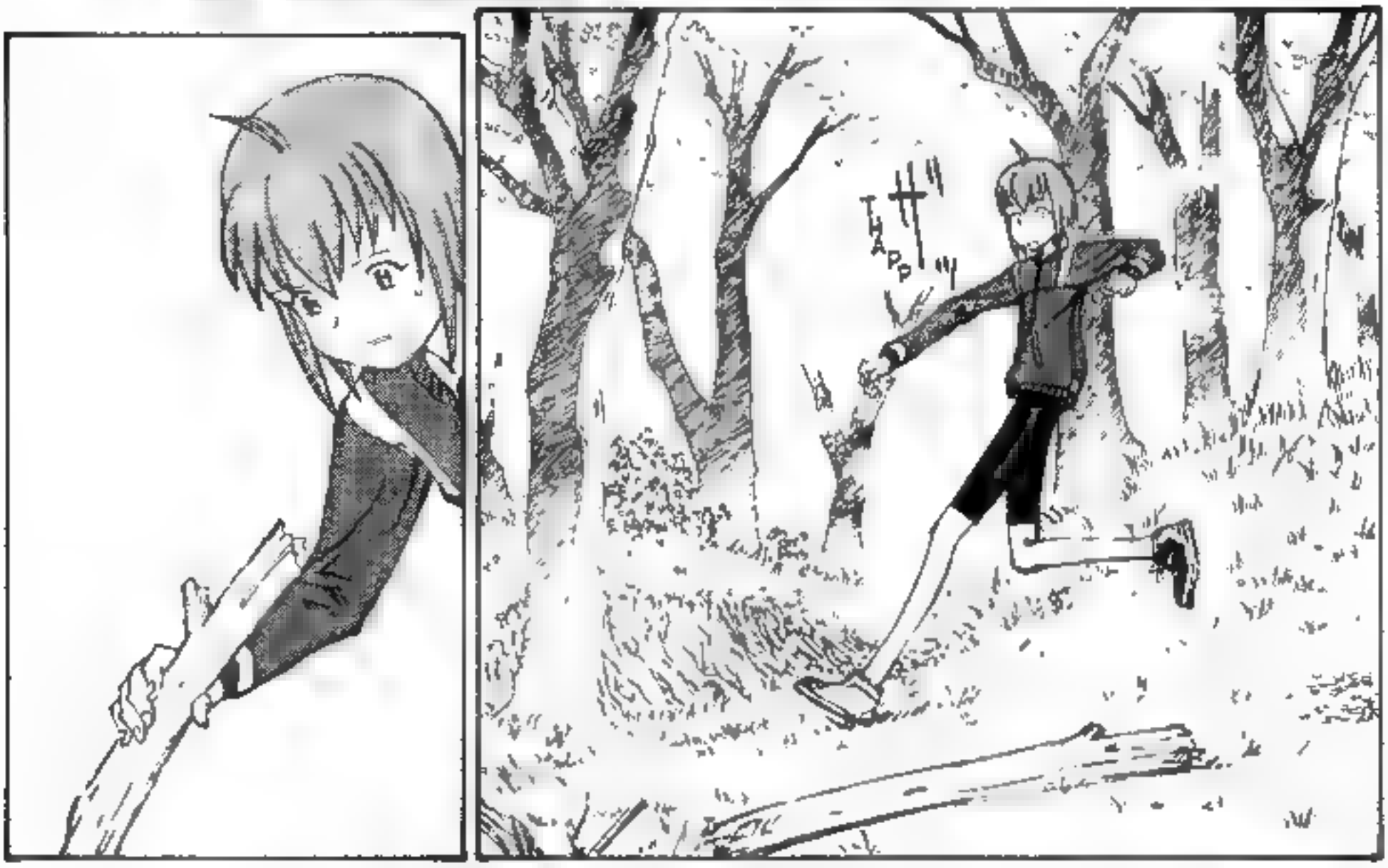
...BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.

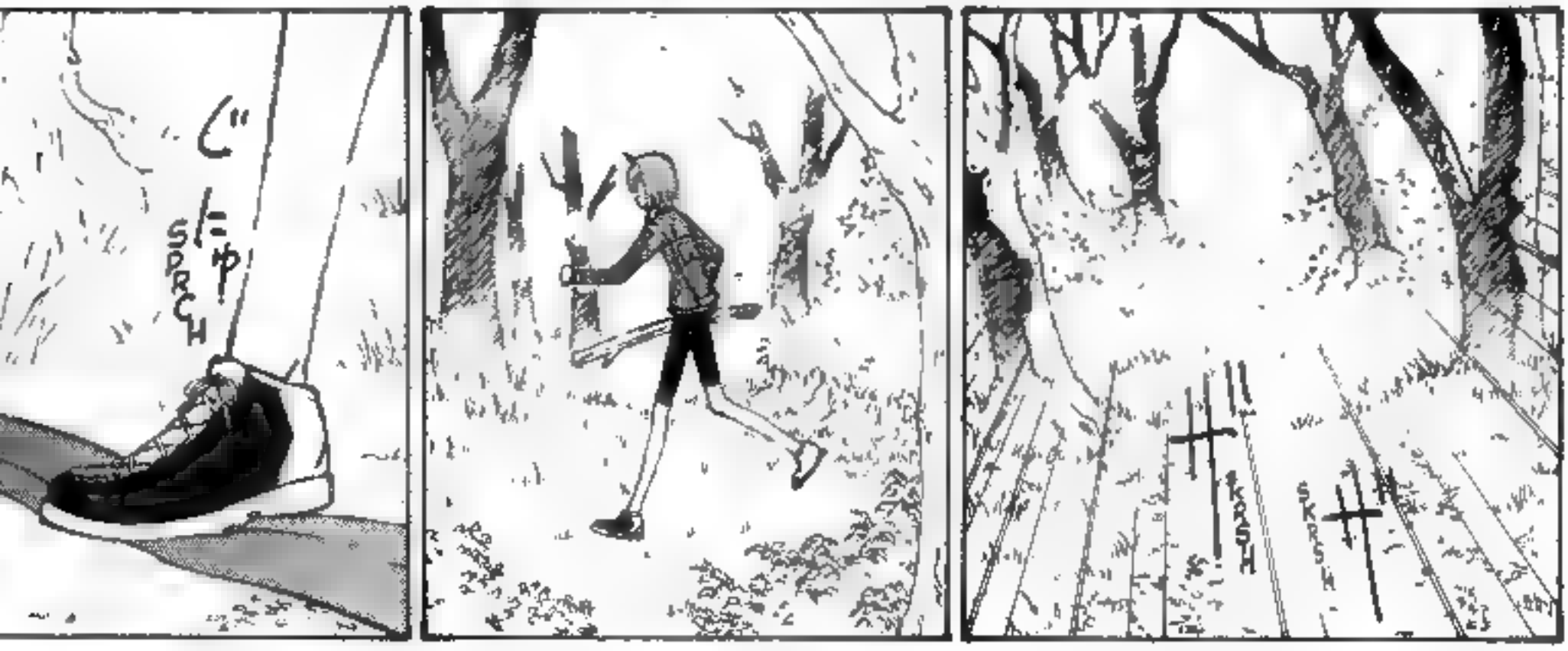
FAST!

...IT'S BEST TO RUN!



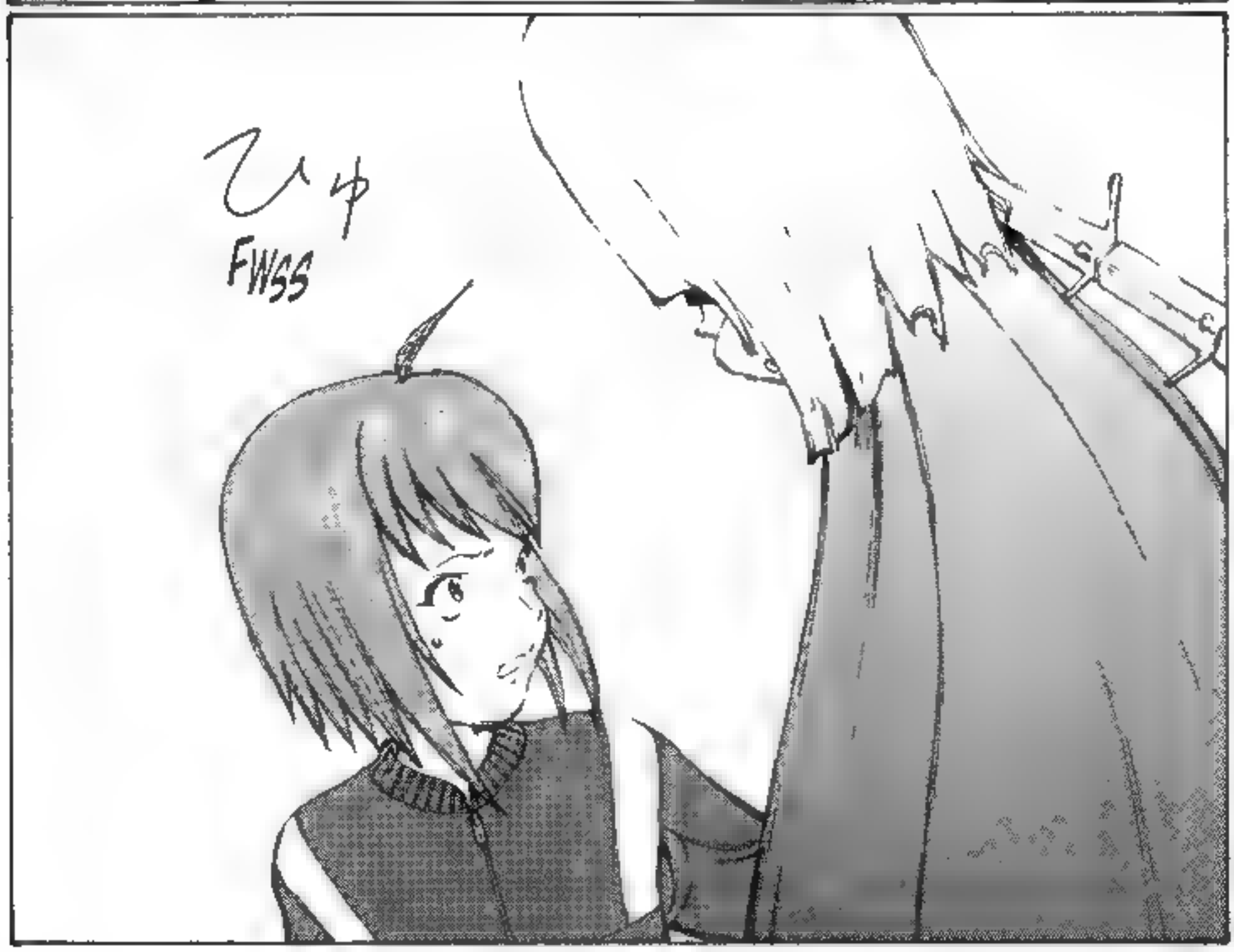
LIFE


THUD


SPRCH
SKRSH
SKRSH

ばっFWp

AH?


FWSS

SPRAK

SKSSH

HAHH!

KRCH

PHEWW...

AH?

SHLRPP

FSS

AH!

FWK

NO!

KRAK

HURK!

UNGHH...

ばっ

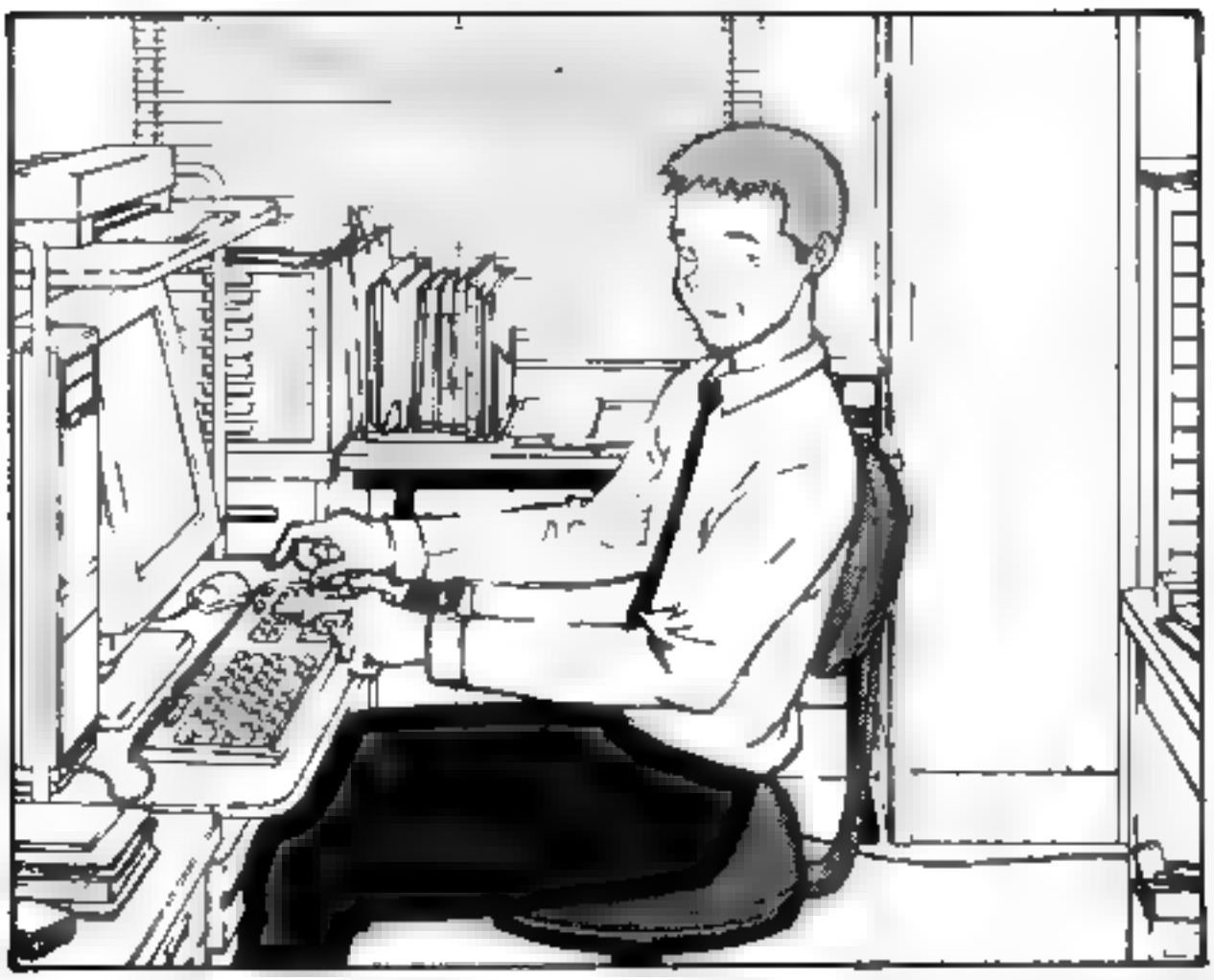
ZRAAK

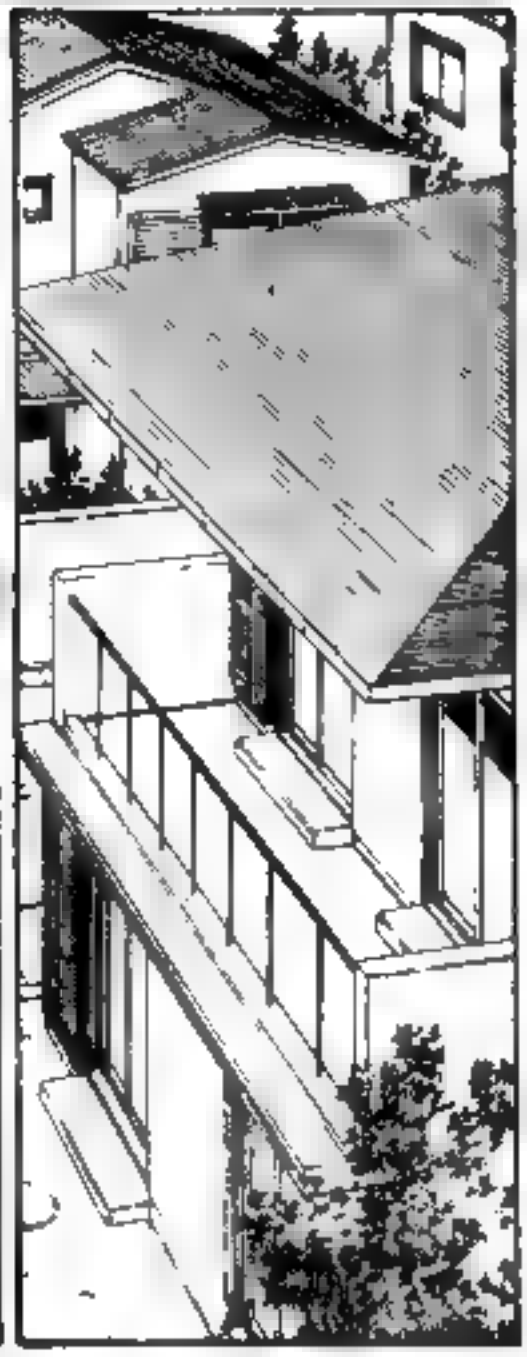
TNKK

Read this way

KRAKK

GYAAHHH!!





OWW!!

AH?!

AH...

NN...

TAKEO...

TAKEO...

WHERE'S *SHIINA?!*

OZAWA'S STILL *UNCONSCIOUS,* BUT...

I DON'T KNOW.

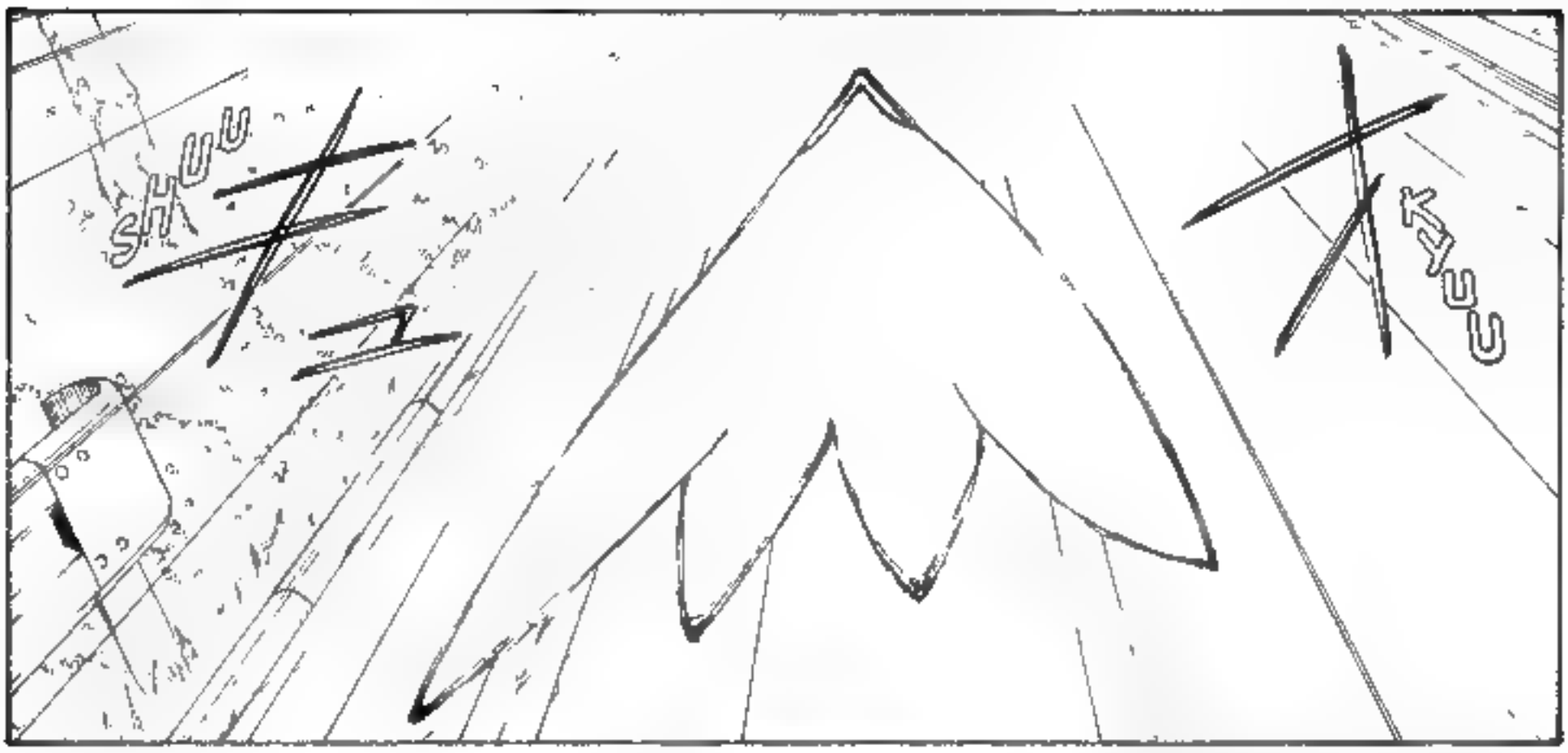
DIE?

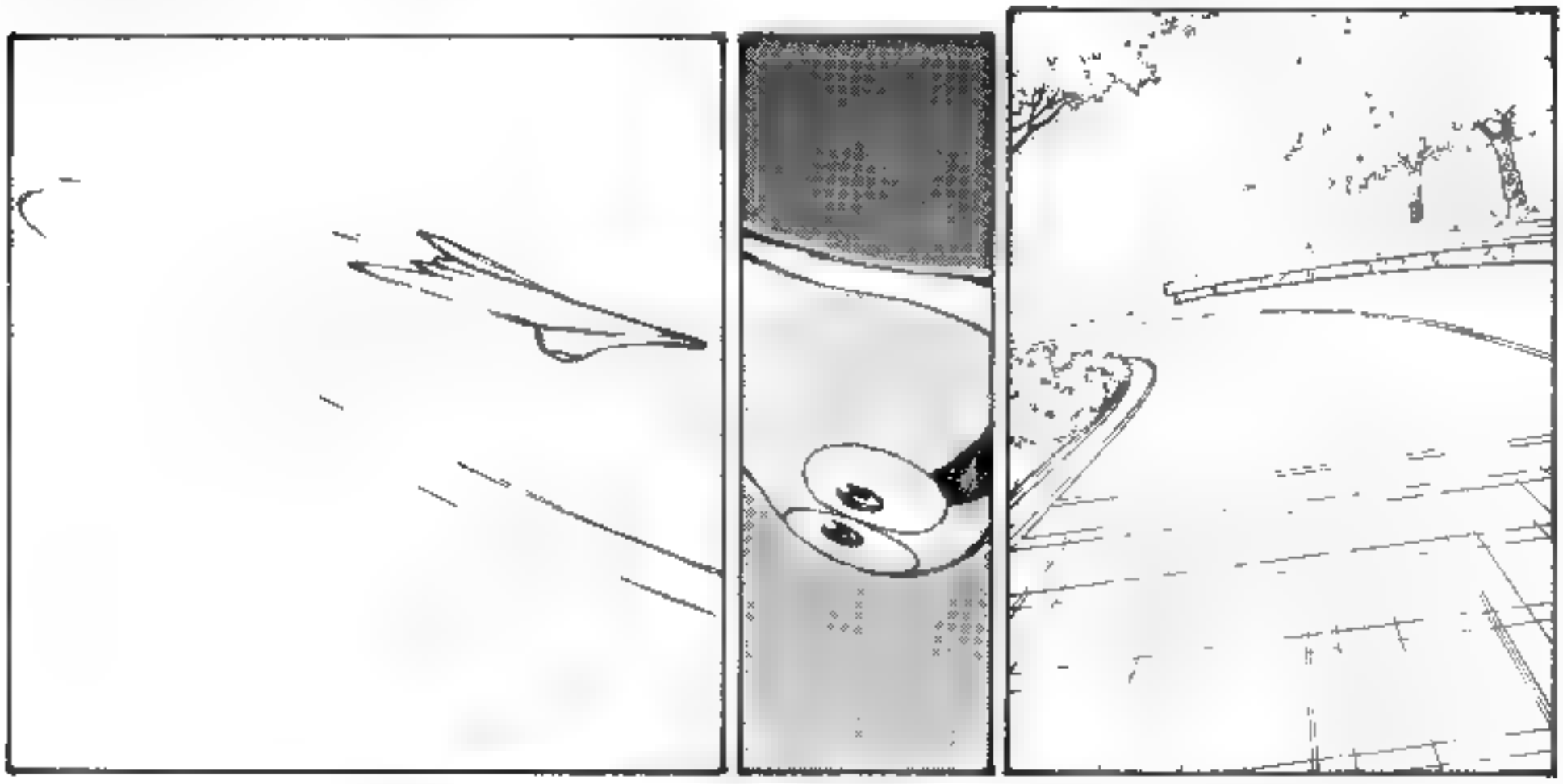
I'M GONNA DIE?

KILLED BY THIS THING?

...GONNA HAPPEN!

THAT'S NOT...


SHUU
SHUU



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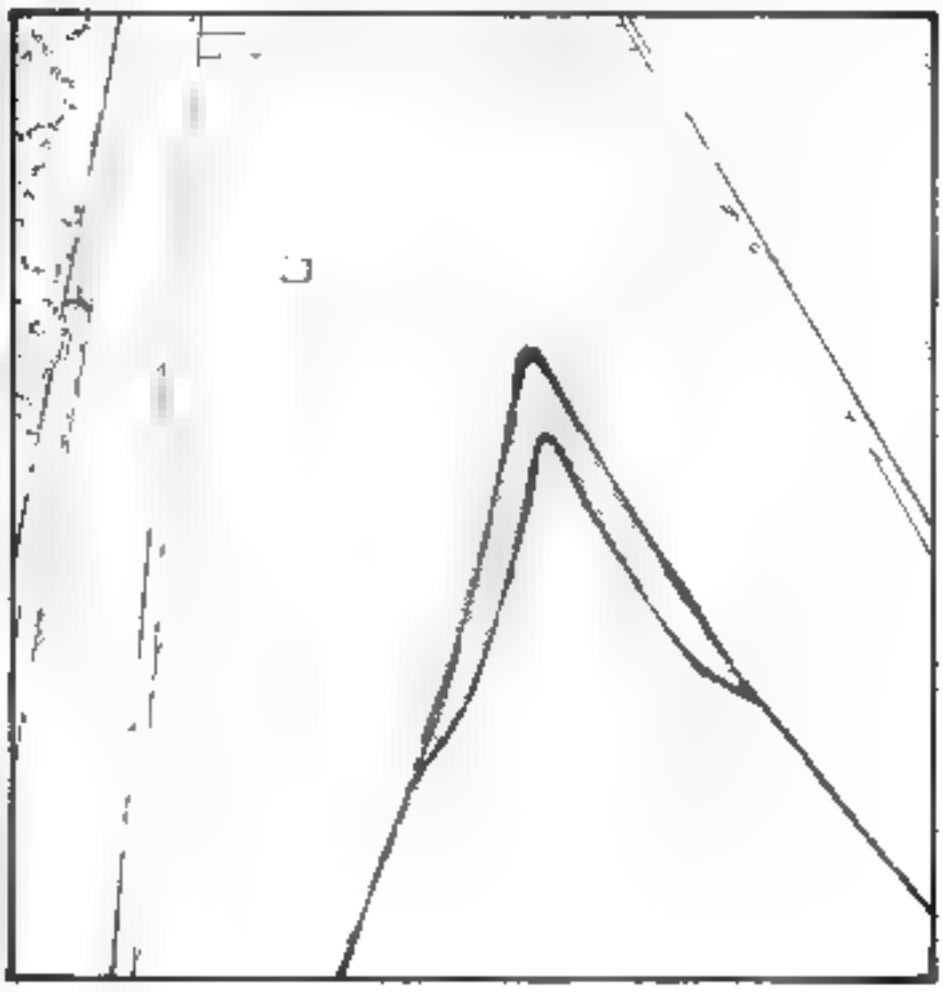


THUD 14

I'M SO POWER-LESS.

KRAK

...THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BEAT THIS THING.

OF COURSE...

HUHF

...I'M LOSING IT...

DARN...

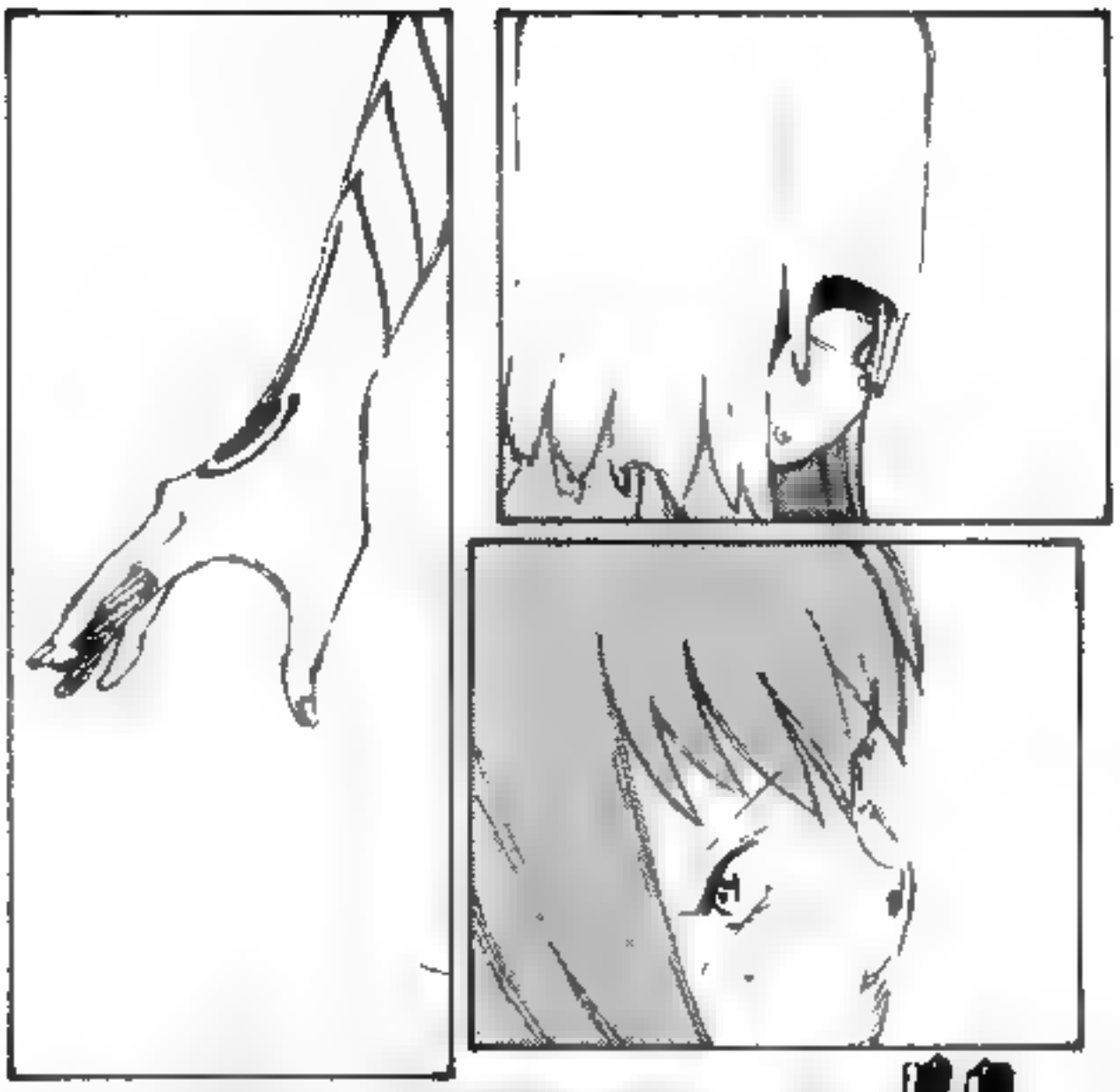
SOMEONE'S...

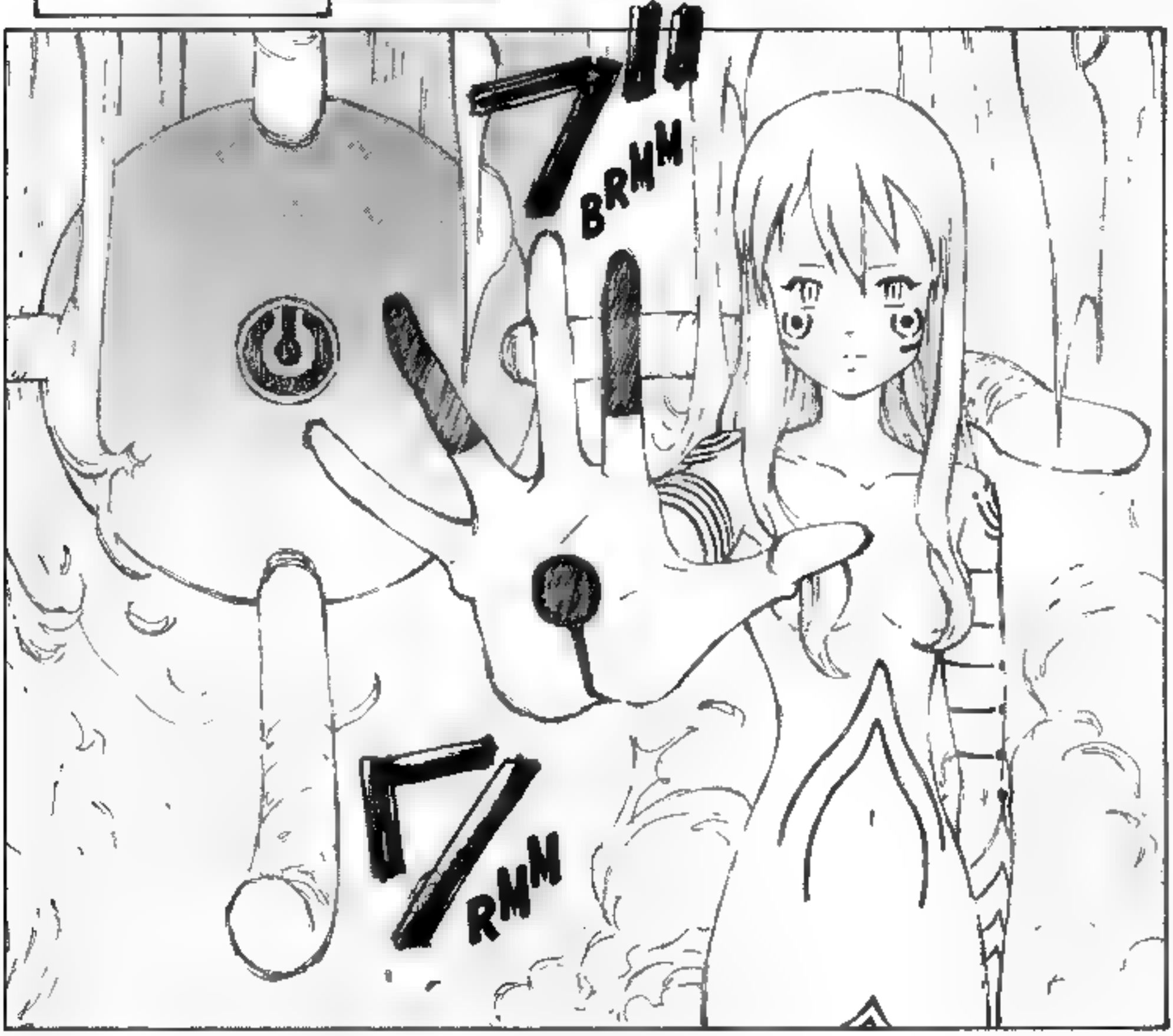
...COMING?

DADDY?

HOSHIMARU?

WHO?




BRMM
RMM

HAYUU
HAYUU

GYAHH!!

HA...
HAHH..
OZAWA ?!

OZAWA ?!

OZAWA...

MISS OZAWA.

SO YOU'RE SATOMI OZAWA?
THE GIRL WHO'S TAKING THE BANDA EXAMS?

SHE'S TAKING THE SAME EXAMS AS YOU, I THINK.

OH, *HER?*

SHE'S FROM HOMEROOM THREE. KEI SHINKAWA.

DON'T THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL JUST 'CAUSE THE *TEACHERS* LIKE YOU.

HEY, *GIRLY!*

OZAWA. DO OUR HOMEWORK, *PLEASSSE?!*

YOU'RE OUR *STUDENT REP,* RIGHT?

BUT I DON'T REMEMBER HER BEING SO SMART.

...YOU'RE TOO OBEDIENT.

SATOMI...

...IF YOU MAKE IT INTO *BANDA.*

GUESS IT WON'T MATTER...

GO BUY ME SOME CIGGIES.

YO, STUDENT REP!

JUST *ENDURING* IT? YOU REALLY *WANT* THAT?

SAYING YOU'RE *TOUGH-ER?*

WHY'D YOU TELL ON US!

HEY, *YOU!*

OZAWA, WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH THIS?

...WHAT *THEN?*

BUT IF YOU *DON'T* MAKE IT IN...

...BUT I WAS NEVER LESS THAN FIFTH IN MY GRADE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M BRAG-GING...

NOT THAT I GRADU ATED.

AND, LIKE, YOUR *DAD'S* JOB ISN'T SO...

WITH YOUR *MOTHER'S* ACADEMIC BACK-GROUND?

...AND BEGIN.

NOW, OPEN YOUR EXAM BOOKS...

RIGHT ON, SATOMI!

YOU *ACED* IT?!

...I HEAR SHE'S A *PART-TIMER?*

YOUR MOM...

WASN'T *OZAWA* THE SMART ONE?

SHINKAWA GOT IN INSTEAD.

HUH? SHE *FAILED?*

THREE MORE *YEARS* WITH THOSE IDIOTS.

SUCH A *SHAME.*

I'LL PROTECT YOU.

DON'T WORRY.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

SATOMI, YOU DID YOUR BEST.

This way please

NNH...

AAH!!

I *DO* RECOGNIZE YOUR ABILITY, OZAWA.

WELL, GIVE IT YOUR BEST.

IT'S JUST ONE TOOL FOR *ACHIEVING* GOALS.

SCHOOL ISN'T A *GOAL.*

...YOU COULD END UP TRASH, TOO.

STILL, LUMPED IN WITH ALL THAT *TRASH*...

CAN'T SOME OF US FIND *OTHER* MEANINGS IN LIFE?

EDUCATION, PRESTIGE, WEALTH?

...YOU CAN ASK *TAKANO* TO PROTECT YOU.

WELL, WHEN WORST COMES TO *WORST*...

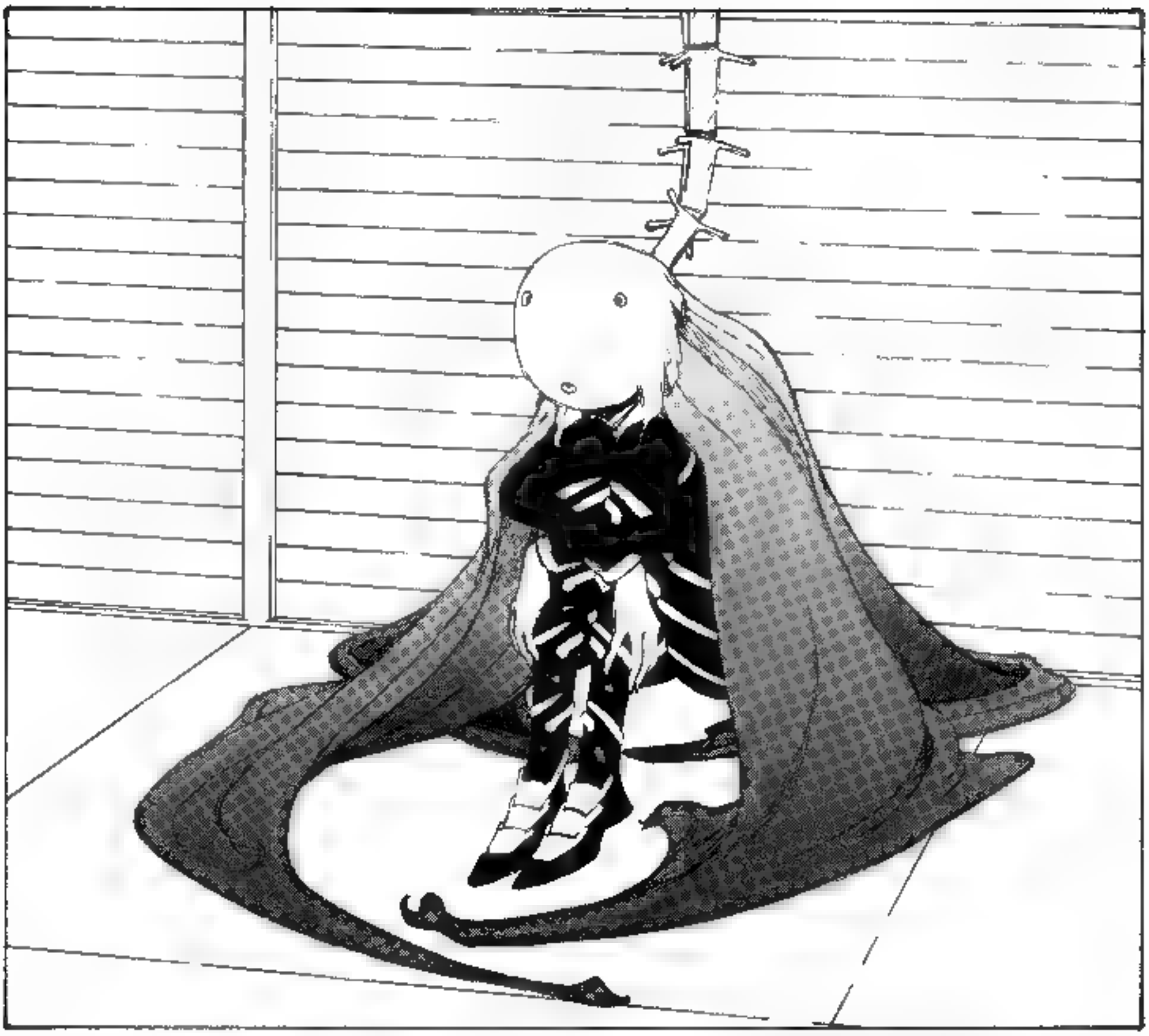
...HAS MEANT SO MUCH MORE...

FOR YOUR MOTHER, BUILDING A LIFE WITH YOUR DAD...

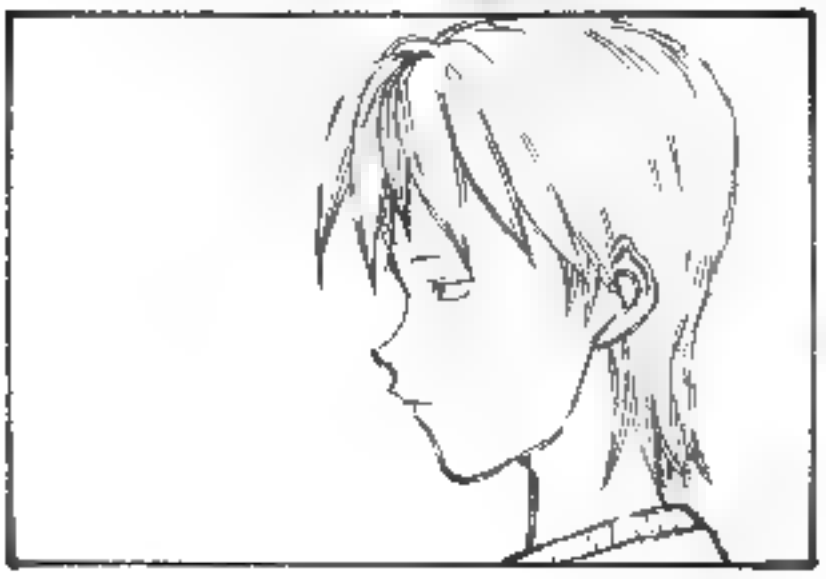
GRUDGES: END

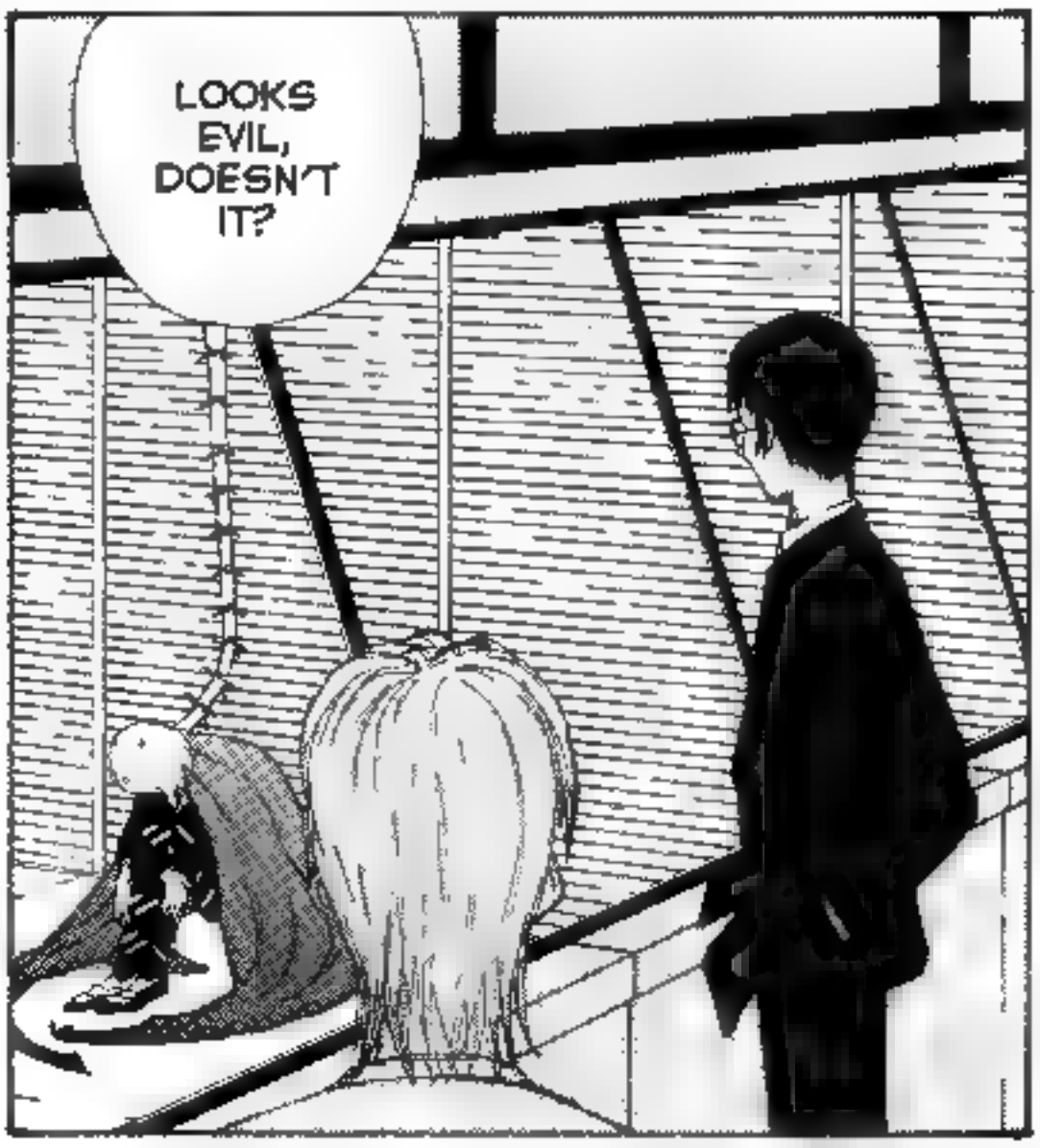
shadow star☆

[redacted] story & art by MOHIRO KITOH



MUST BE AWFUL, BEING *ROUGHED UP* BY IT.




LOOKS EVIL, DOESN'T IT?

Read this way

SO, THIS IS MY MAIN CON-CERN...

...WILL OUR DEADLY MISS OZAWA STILL *FUNCTION?*

RIGHT YOU ARE.

PLEASE, DECIDE FOR YOUR-SELF.

HI!

SATOMI, LET'S GO SEE THE DOCTOR.

I'D LIKE OZAWA TO UNDERGO A THOROUGH MEDICAL EXAM.

SURE.

COME HERE, TAKANO.

PHEW.

TAKANO, TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT LONGER.

OKAY. CAN'T BE HELPED.

GUESS IT'S UP TO TAKANO.

THAT'S HOW IT IS.

DOES DOCTOR TAMAI KNOW ABOUT SHIINA?

I HAVEN'T TOLD HER, OF COURSE.

YES, I KNOW.

...ANYTHING CONCERNING *THAT GIRL.*

ESPE-CIALLY...

BE CAREFUL. AND REFRAIN FROM *VENDETTAS,* OKAY?

WELL, I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT *YOU TWO,* BUT...

WELL, NOT FOR *YOU*, I GUESS.

BLOOD RELATIONS CAN BE SO TROUBLE-SOME.

THOUGH... I REALLY DON'T THINK IT WOULD BOTHER HER.

AH.

OH, RIGHT.

DOCTOR TAMAI'S WAITING.

VICE DIREC-TOR.

BUT, SHE'S PROBABLY STARTING TO--

SHE'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT SATOMI OZAWA WAS TRYING TO DO?

YOU SEE, I HAVE A *DAUGHTER.*

...AS OZAWA.

SHE GOES TO THE SAME SCHOOL...

OKAY, THEN.

A WORD OF *ADVICE.*

YOU SHOULDN'T USE IT SO *CASUALLY.*

YOUR ABILITY TO RECONSTRUCT MATTER.

FOOD, ENERGY, THEY'D ALL BE INFINITE.

YOU MIGHT ALREADY KNOW THIS, BUT...

...YOU COULD SOLVE THE WORLD'S RESOURCE PROBLEMS.

...IF YOU COULD USE IT INDEFINITELY...

IN OTHER WORDS--

NEVER IN HUMAN HISTORY, THOUGH THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MANY LIKE YOU.

BUT THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS?

SO WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US, THEN?

YOUR FRIEND WON'T LET US STOP.

BUT RIGHT NOW...

HEH. THANKS FOR THE WARNING...

I HAVE TO ASK..

DOCTOR TAMAI YOU INTRIGUE ME.

I DON'T WANT TO STOP.

AND FOR MY OWN PURPOSES...

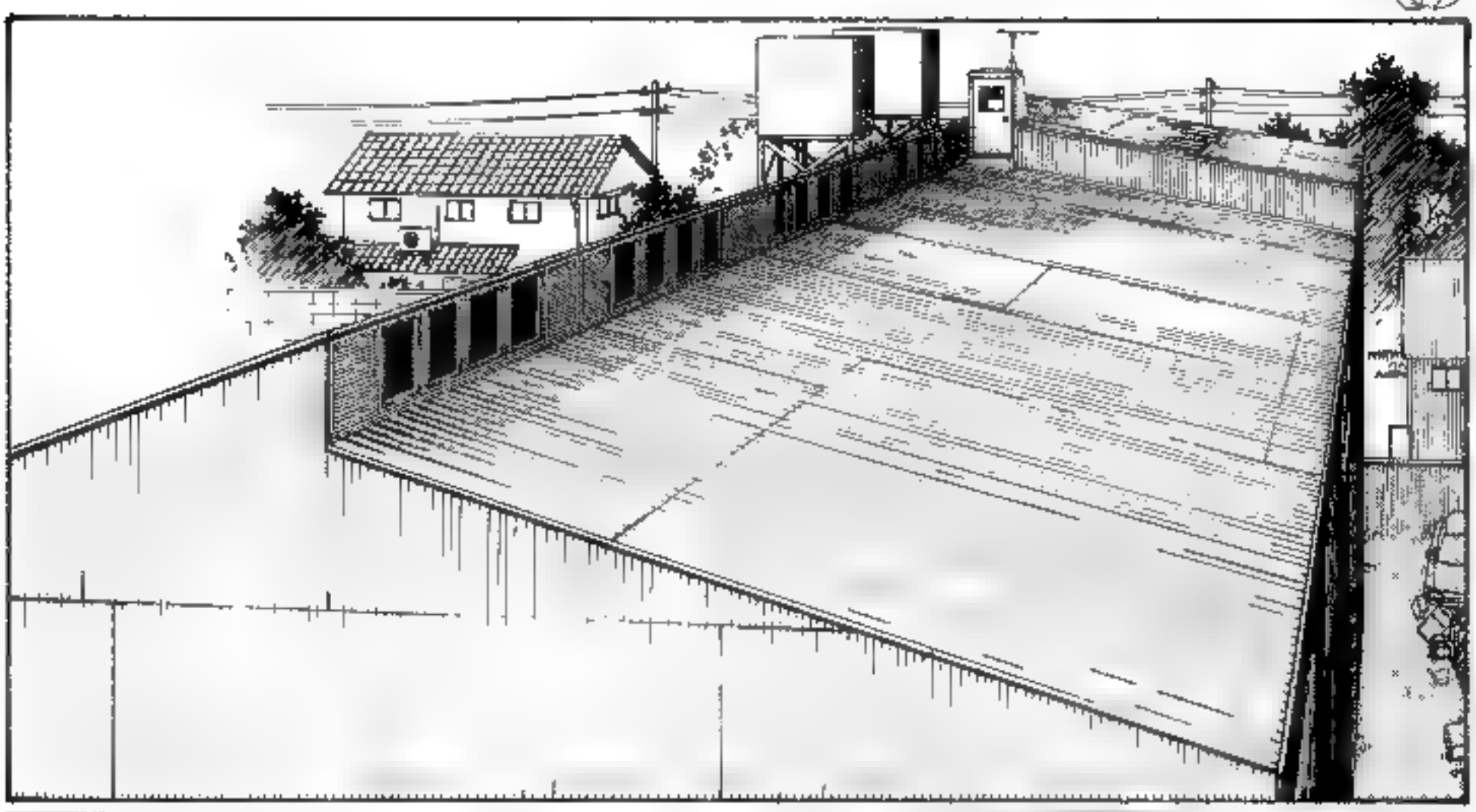
...WHAT IS *YOUR* PURPOSE?

...DOCTOR TAMAI...

From a dying planet shall come the children of light

shadow star

SHEEP



WHY'D YOU HESITATE? THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
I *TOLD YOU* WE HAD TO KILL OZAWA.

COULDN'T PROTECT HER, COULD YOU?

BUT IT MATTERS TO *YOU*, RIGHT?

IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

WELL, SHIINA LIVES... OR SHIINA DIES.

...SPECIAL?

SO SHE'S...

ARE YOU AFRAID SHE'LL HATE YOU?

NO, THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, EITHER.

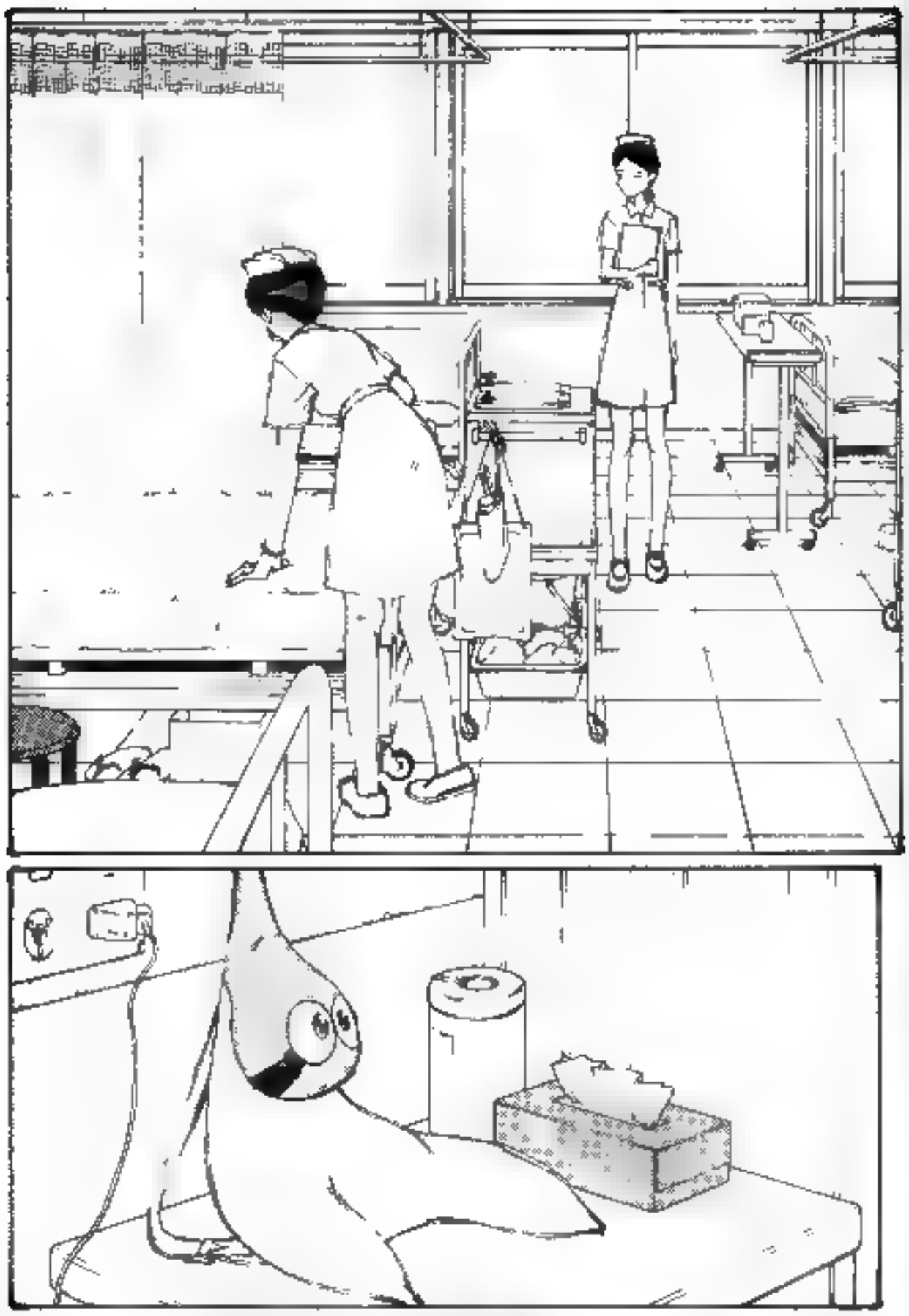
WANNA COME?

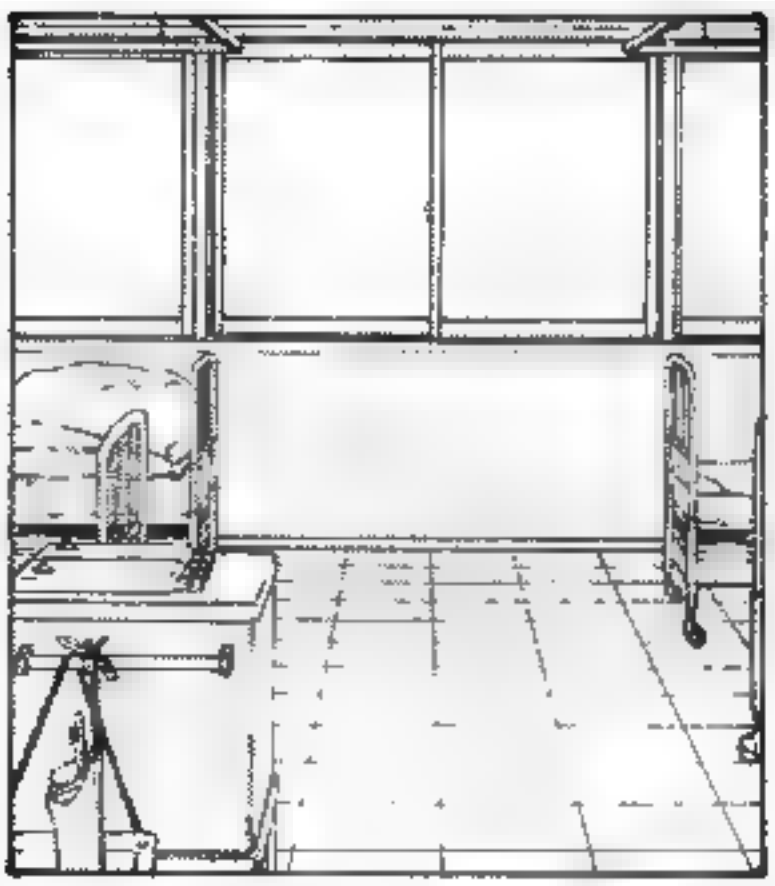
I HAVE TO SEE HER.

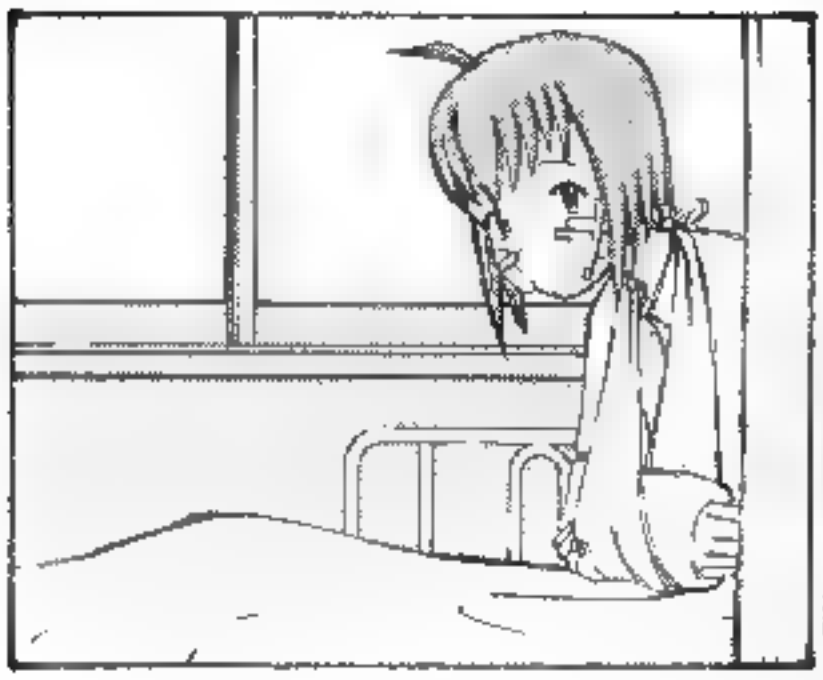
GOING SOME-WHERE?

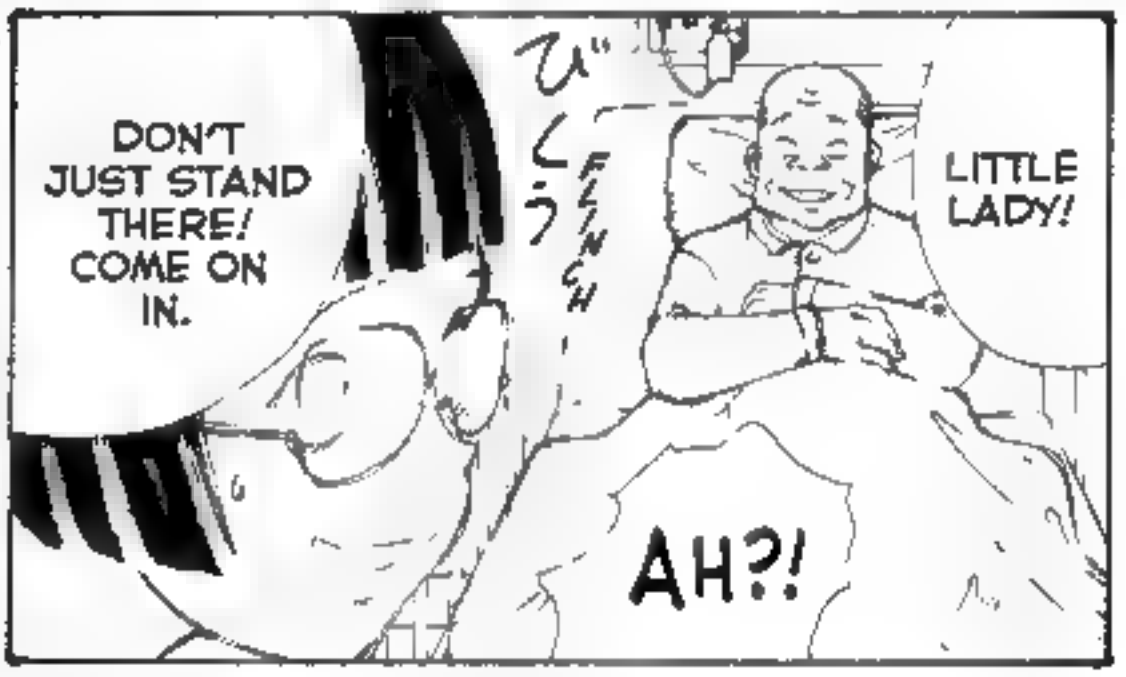
COOL IT. I HEAR YOU.

VERY FUNNY.








DON'T JUST STAND THERE! COME ON IN.
ぴしゃん
LITTLE LADY!
AH?!

OH!
SHIMAZU!

HI...

UH...

JUST *GREAT!*

HOWDY.

HOW... HOW *ARE* YOU, TAMA!?

HAH, HAH! AH... WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.

WE LOOKED IN ALL OF THE PRIVATE ROOMS, BUT...

I'M... SO SORRY...

HM?

AH?! UHHMM...

HUH? WHAT?

THEN-- LET'S EAT 'EM *TOGETHER!*

WE BOUGHT SOME CAKES.

WHAT IS IT?

OH, HERE-- A *PRESENT!!*

BUT...SHIINA TOLD ME SHE FELL DOWN A *CLIFF...*

SHE WAS *BEATEN?!*

SHE WAS BEATEN QUITE BADLY.

THE INJURIES ARE ALL WRONG.

NO...

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING? ANYONE?

OH... THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO FELL, TOO?

I THINK SHE'S HOSPITALIZED.

DO YOU KNOW *WHERE?*

TELL ME. HOW'S MISS UI?

PLEASE.

SHALL I ASK HER TEACHER?

I... I DON'T KNOW, BUT--

AND HOW BAD IS SHE HURT?

AH HAH, HAH...

THE ORGAN-IZERS ARE BEING *SKINNED ALIVE!*

I THOUGHT WE WERE *ALL* GONNA GET LOST.

SO, IT WAS *CRAZY,* THE WEATHER CHANGING SO FAST!

AH, WELL...

WAS IT *SCARY*, FALLING OFF A CLIFF?

...SORT OF *FUN.*

IT WAS...

BRMM

BRMM

⇦ This way please

YO.

WHY ARE YOU ALL *BANDAGED UP?*

AH?

OH, HELLO!

NO, MY MOTHER'S HERE TO PICK US UP.

I FELL OFF A CLIFF.

OH, IT'S NOTHING.

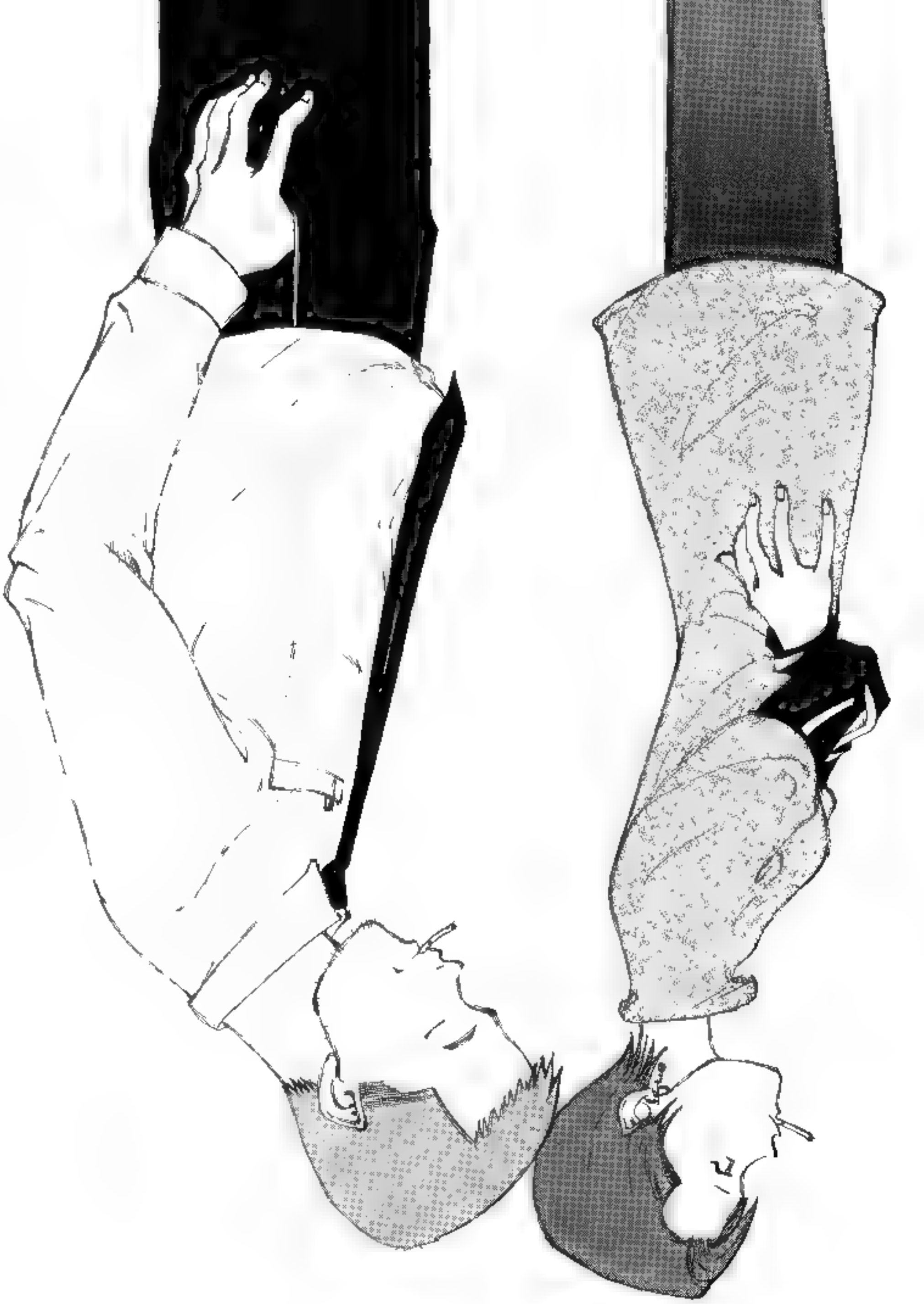
NEED A RIDE HOME?

HUH?

YOU'RE OKAY...
TSURU-MARU...
THANK GOD...

SHIINA.

OHHH...
I WAS SCARED!!
I WAS SO SCARED!!



Shadow Scar

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH

Read this way

SHE SAID SHE'S KICKING BACK FOR A WEEK.

I WONDER HOW LONG SHIINA'LL BE OUT OF SCHOOL ...?

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

IT'S KINDA HARD TO ASK.

TAMAI'S MOTHER ISN'T AROUND, IS SHE?

EH? SHE *ISN'T?* HOW COME?

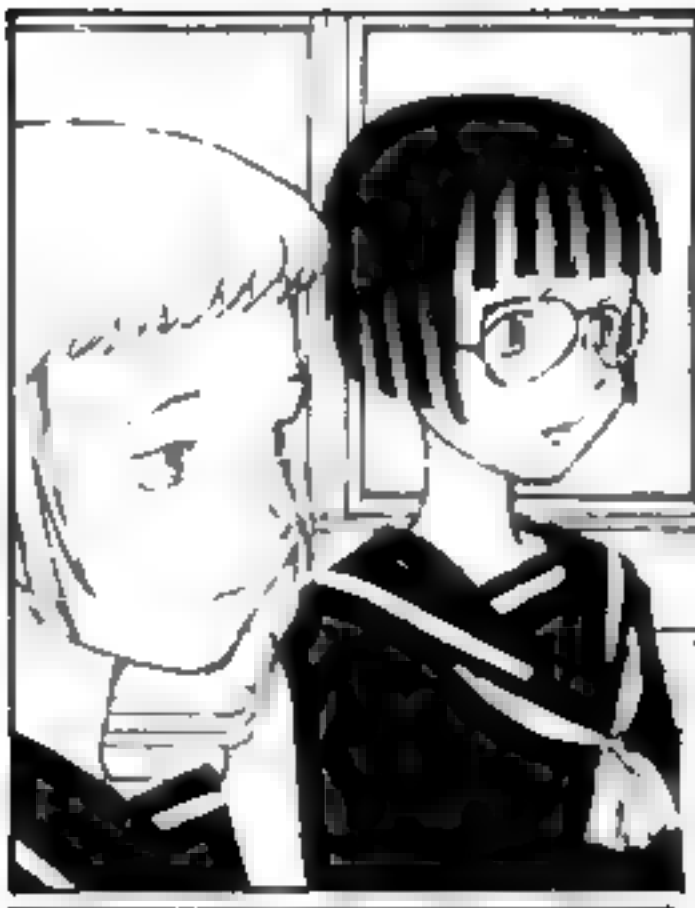
JUST *BREAK* SOME-THING.

REALLY? I WISH *I* COULD.

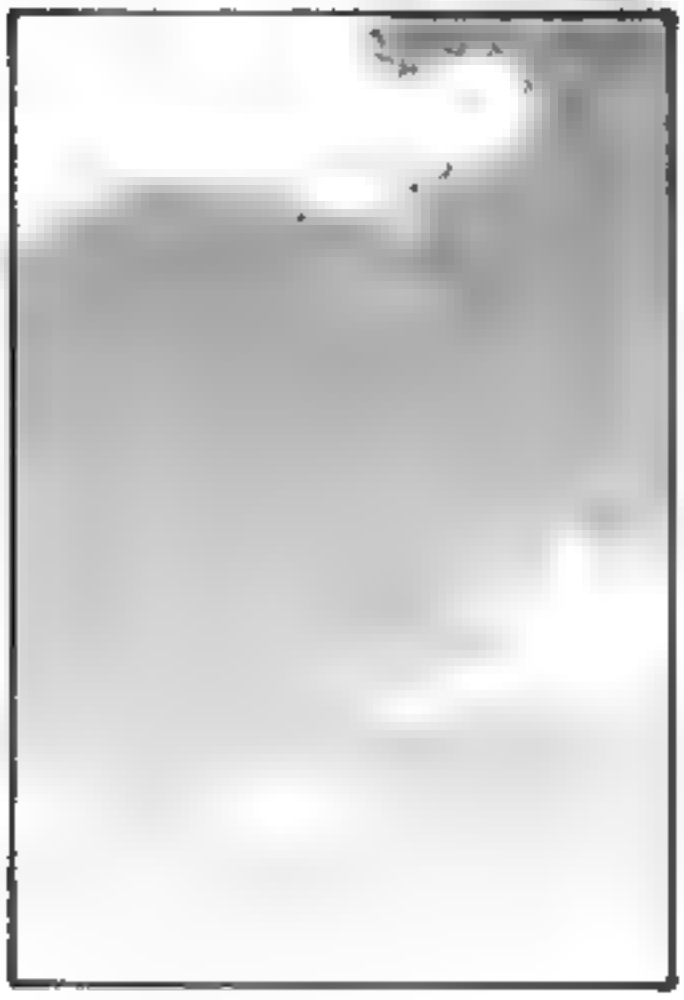
IT MUST BE HARD, NOT BEING ABLE TO USE YOUR GOOD HAND.

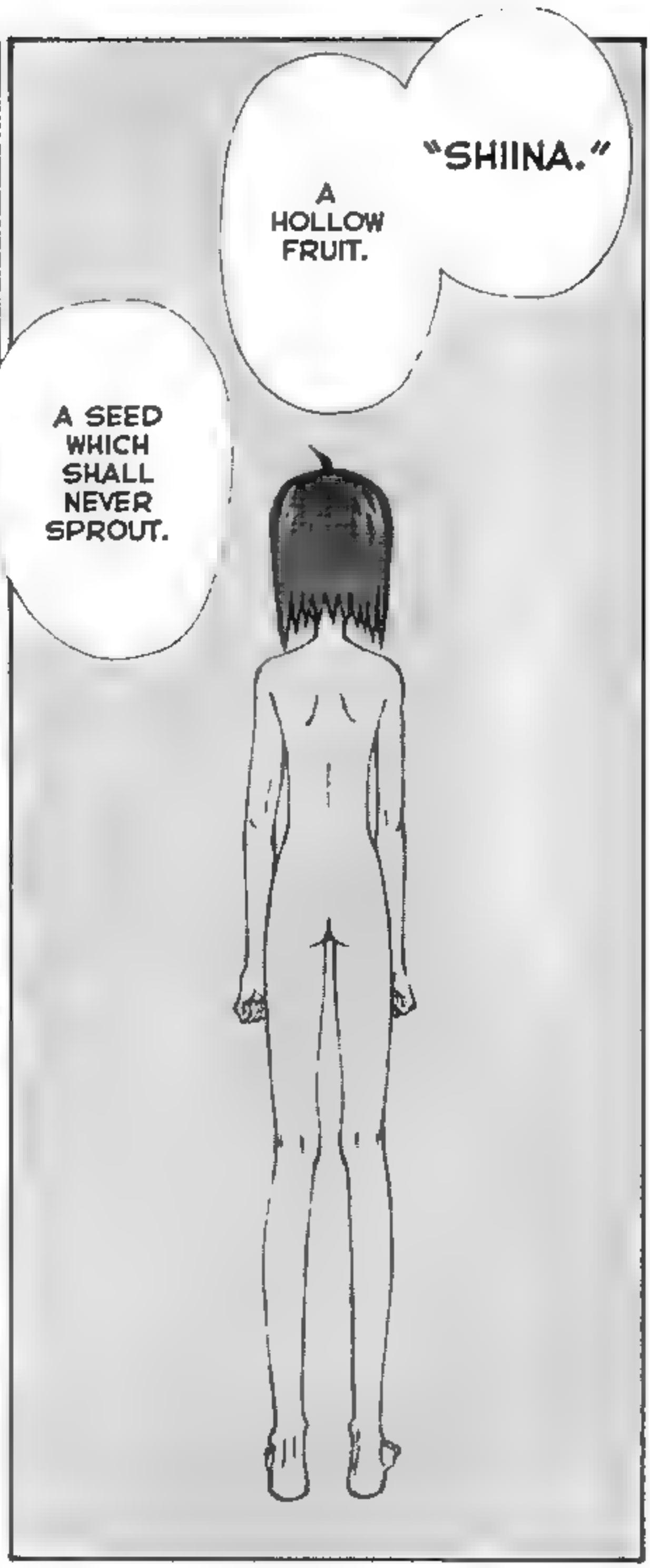
...MEANS?

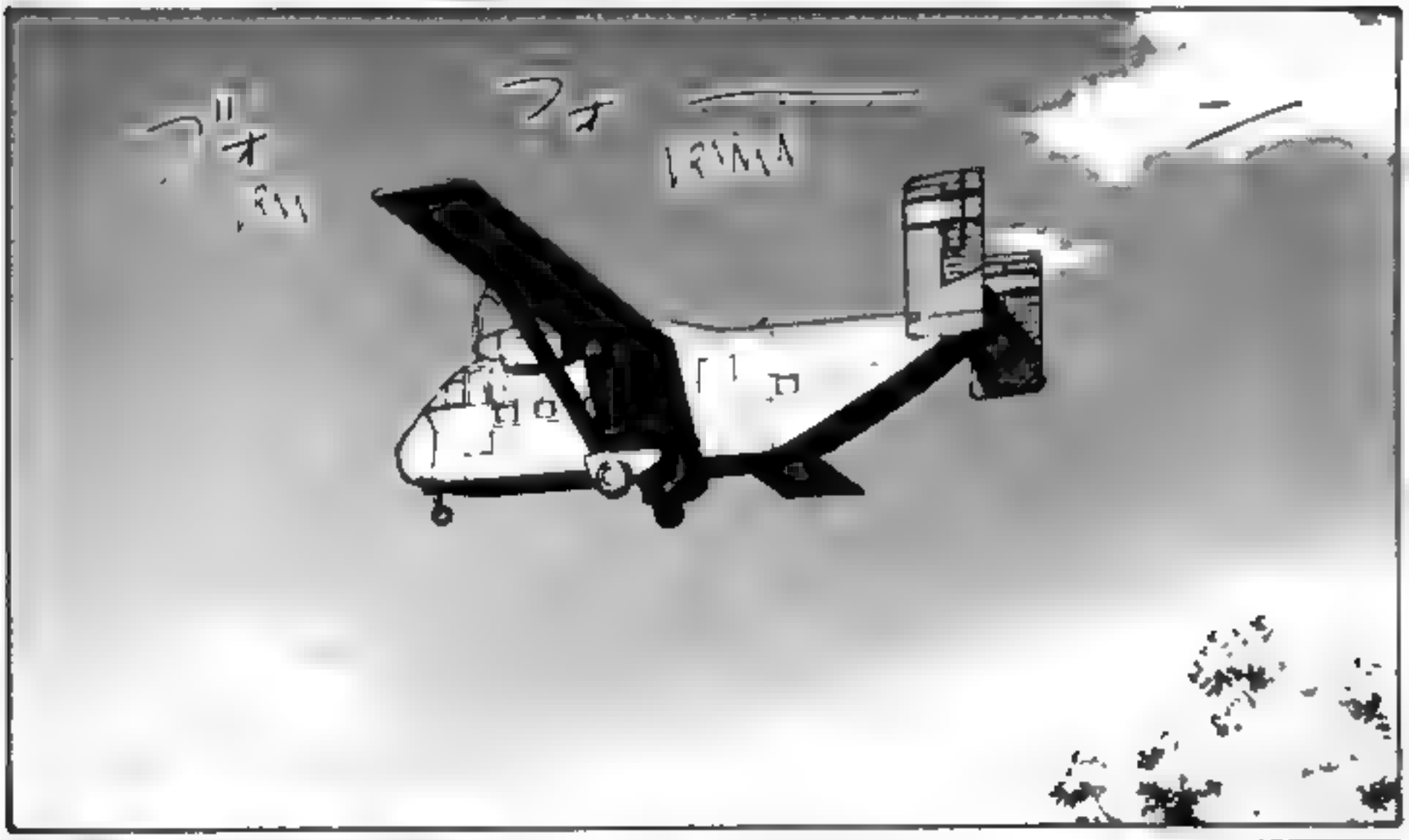
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TAMAI'S NAME...

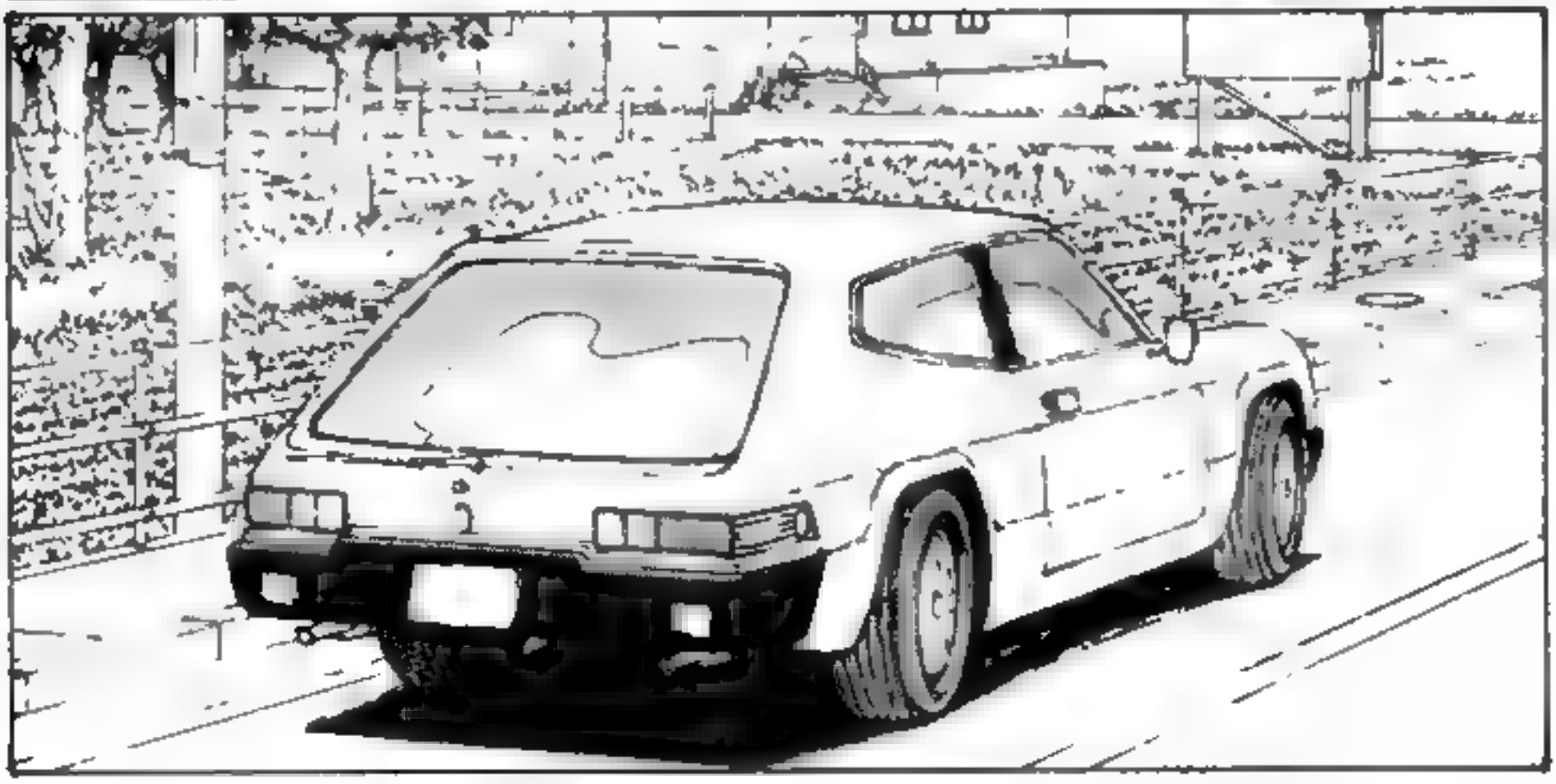


WHAT SORT OF PARENT WOULD NAME THEIR CHILD *THAT?*




A SEED WHICH SHALL NEVER SPROUT.
A HOLLOW FRUIT.
"SHIINA."





YOU HAVE A VISITOR.

MISTER TAMAI.

HEH HEH HEH.

WHO?

CHK—BRMM

BRMM

BRMM

BRMM

ビョオオ

VRNNN

VRMM

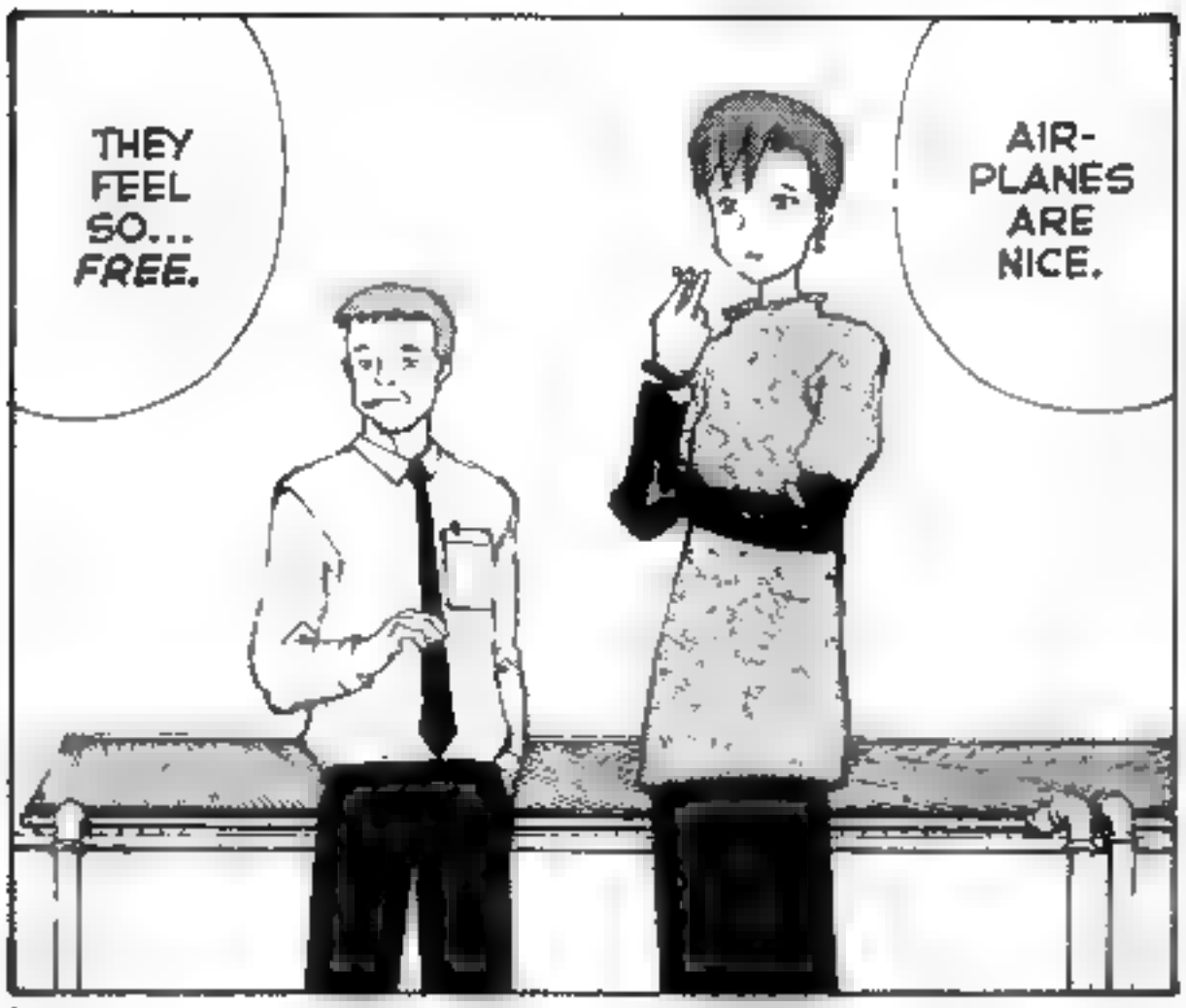
ルオ　オ

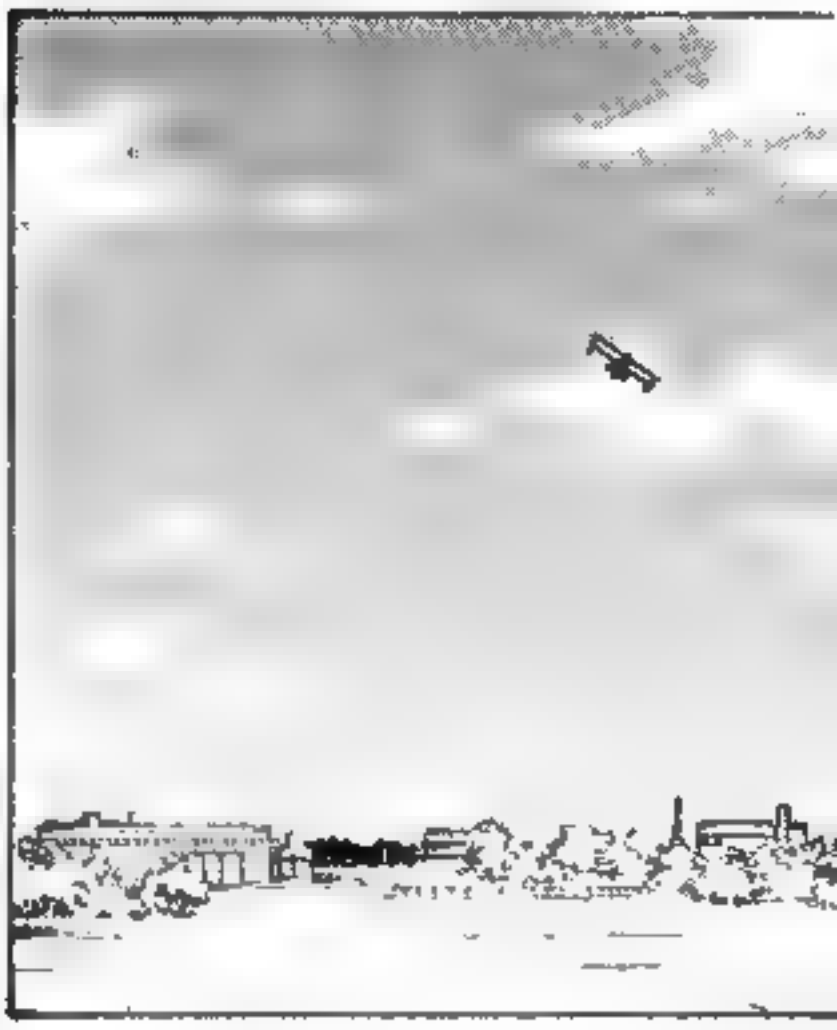
BRMMM

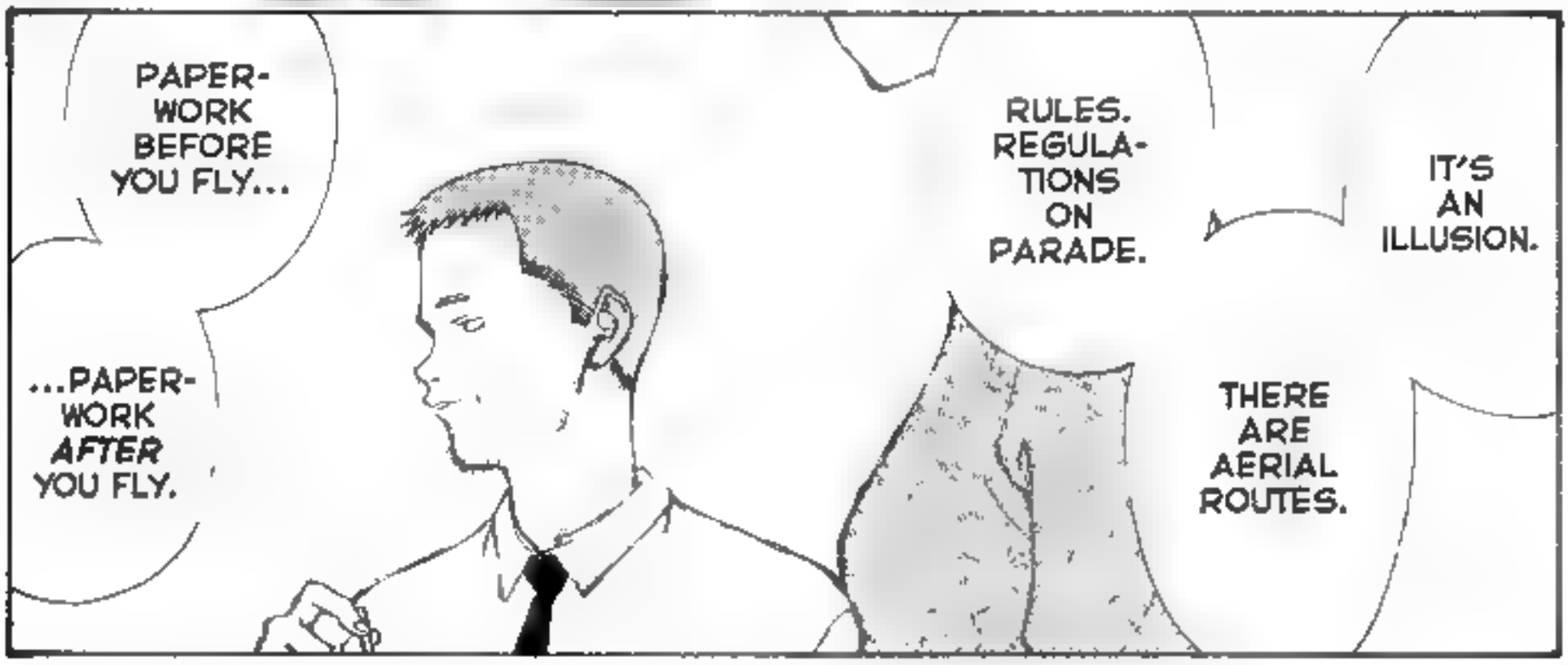
ルル

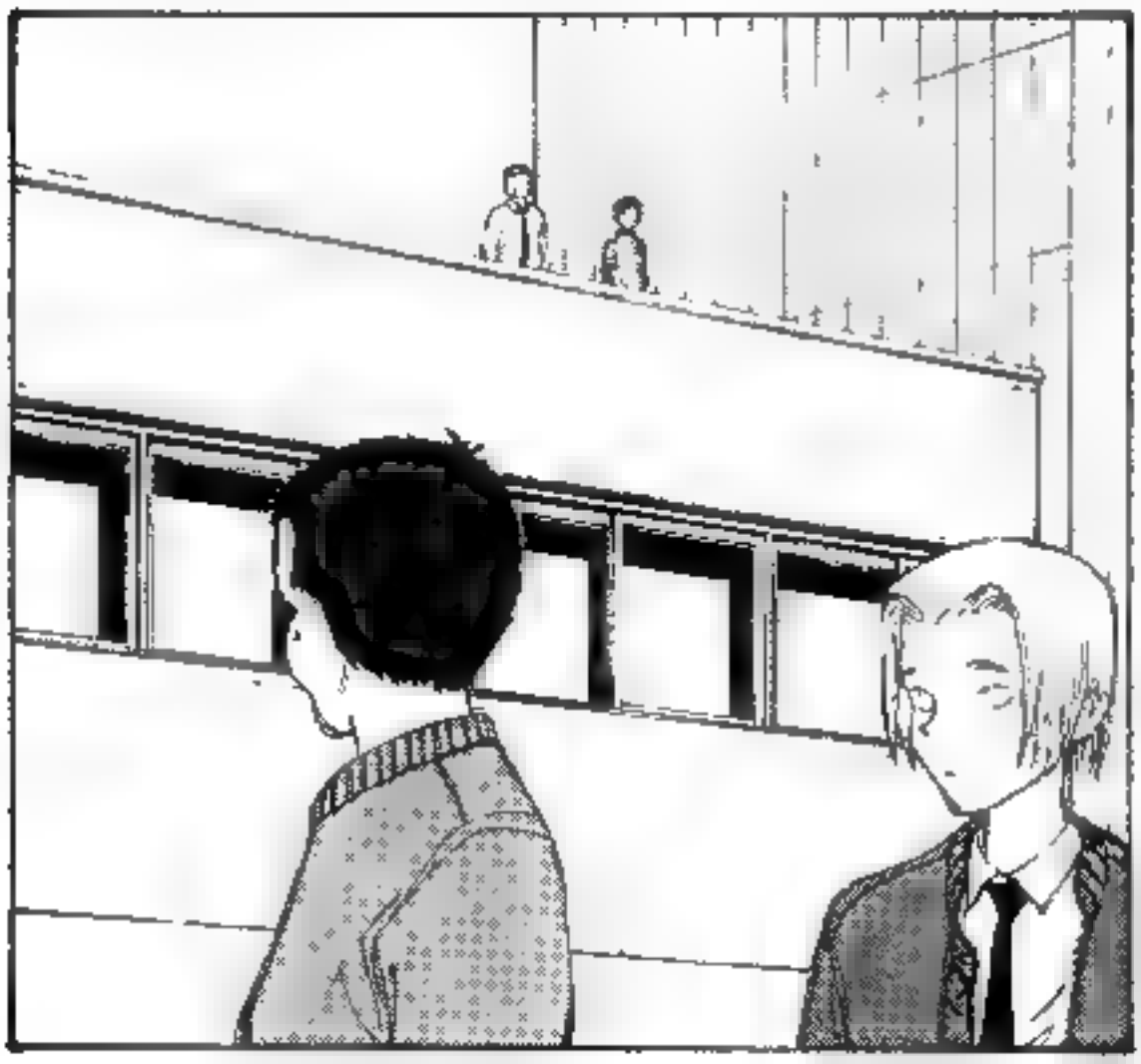
RMM　RMM

Read this way









LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF PASSENGERS TODAY. THAT'S RARE.

NEVER MAKES MONEY.

THAT'S THE *ISLAND RUN.*

I'D RATHER NOT SEE YOUR PARENTS.

I THINK I'LL PASS.

WANNA GO?

I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT THERE FOR SO LONG.

YOUR CHILD-HOOD *HOME...*

RMMRMM

RMM

CHKRMM

VRNN

VRNN

...YOU'RE BACK TO FLYING FIGHTERS.

SO IN THE END...

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE BOSS'S HOBBY WOULD BE OUR *PROFIT CENTER?*

I MADE YOU SUFFER.

THOSE WERE HARD DAYS. ALL THOSE TRANSFERS.

SOMEHOW, WE'RE GETTING LOTS OF FORMER *ASDF** GUYS.

I TRAINED HIM WHEN I WAS AT *HAMA-MATSU.***

ONE GUY YOU'VE MET.

...SHIINA?

HOW IS...

ASDF: A R SELF DEFENSE FORCE, THE AVIATION W,NG OF JAPAN'S SDF

***HAMAMATSU:** LARGE ASDF AIRBASE NEAR HAMAMATSU CITY IN CENTRAL JAPAN

SHE *SEEMS* NORMAL, BUT--

AH? OH... HARD TO SAY.

...HER *MIND.*

NOT HER BODY...

THEY SAY SHE'LL HEAL QUICKLY.

SHE'S A KID, RIGHT?

YOU'RE *LEAVING,* RIGHT?

WHY?

NEXT WEEK.

VHHH

WHEN ARE YOU GOING?

IT'S A HOT TOPIC AROUND THE P.M.'S OFFICE.

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

BUT I WANT TO GO.

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE, THOUGH.

OH, THERE'S *ONO*...

I THOUGHT I'D ASK MRS. MIZUSHIMA... OUR LANDLORD.

WHAT ABOUT SHIINA?

LEAVE IT TO ME!

I SHOULD PROBABLY CANCEL EVERYTHING AND STAY.

SHE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO WEIGH HER AGAINST YOUR WORK.

TREAD-ING CARE-FULLY, I'D SAY.

SHE SAYS, "JUST GO!" THAT SHE'LL BE FINE.

WHAT DOES SHIINA SAY?

SO...

I KNOW.

...WITH ME?

CAN YOU LEAVE HER...

W-WELL... I'D REST EASIER, BUT...

AH... HUH?

STILL WORRIED?

PLUS, WOULD *YOU* BE OKAY...

...WITH *HER?*

...I'LL HAVE TO ASK SHIINA.

...*STRANGLE* HER AGAIN?

WORRIED THAT I MIGHT...

YOU WERE... *TIRED.*

THAT WAS THEN. NOW'S NOW.

TO BE HONEST, I'M WORRIED, TOO.

MAYBE I'M *STILL* AFRAID OF HER. EVEN NOW!

WHAT'S UP?

GRRR

START-ING *TODAY!*

I'M GONNA *LIVE HERE!*

...WE THREE WILL BE LIVING TOGETHER.

THAT'S IT, LIKE I JUST SAID...

NICE TO SEE YOU, *NORI-OOOH!*

SO?

TSURU-MARU. WE NEED TO--

WELL, LET'S FIND YOU A ROOM.

NORIO! GIVE US A *HAND!*

NO WAY. HELP *YOURSELF!*

LATER, LATER.

THMMP

SKSHH

WHERE ARE YOU MAKING *SPACE?!*

HUH?

BUT TSURU-MARU SAID IT'S GAR-BAGE.

EH... HANDLE WITH *CARE!*

BUT YOU SAID "HELP YOURSELF," NORIO...

TSURU-MARU!

YAAHH!!

KRSHH

I'LL HELP. I *WILL* HELP.

OKAY. I GET IT.

OHHH.. HELP ME..

WHAT DO YOU DO ABOUT FOOD?

GUESS I'LL COOK.

IF WE'RE OUT, WE DON'T EAT.

HAHN? WE EAT WHATEVER'S AROUND.

VITAMINS

OH, GROSS!

AND *OUR* KITCHEN?

YEAH, RIGHT.

WITH THAT ARM?

GUESS YOU LIKE PIZZA ...?

PIZZA ?!

IT'S ALREADY LATE. WANNA ORDER SOME PIZZA?

OKAY.

I'LL PHONE THEM.

FINISH CLEAN-ING UP.

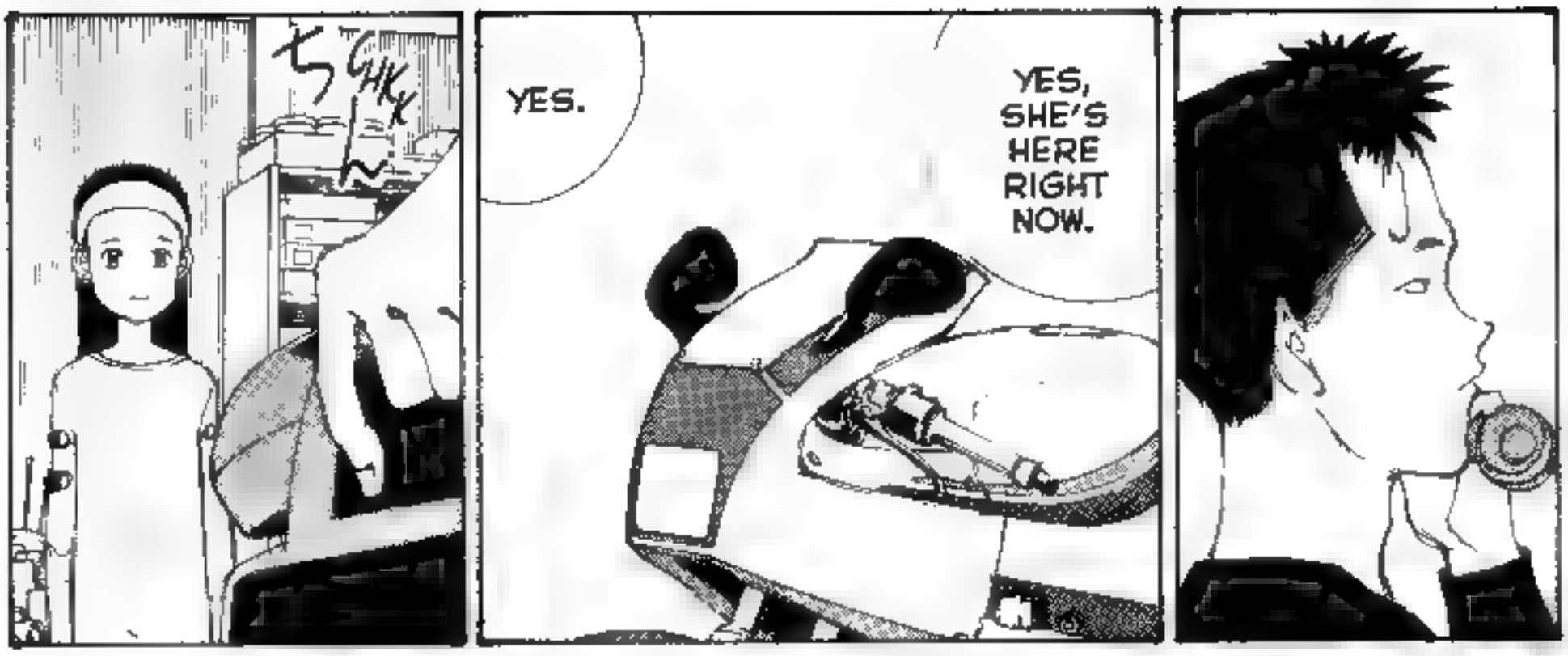
THEN, IT'S DECID-ED.

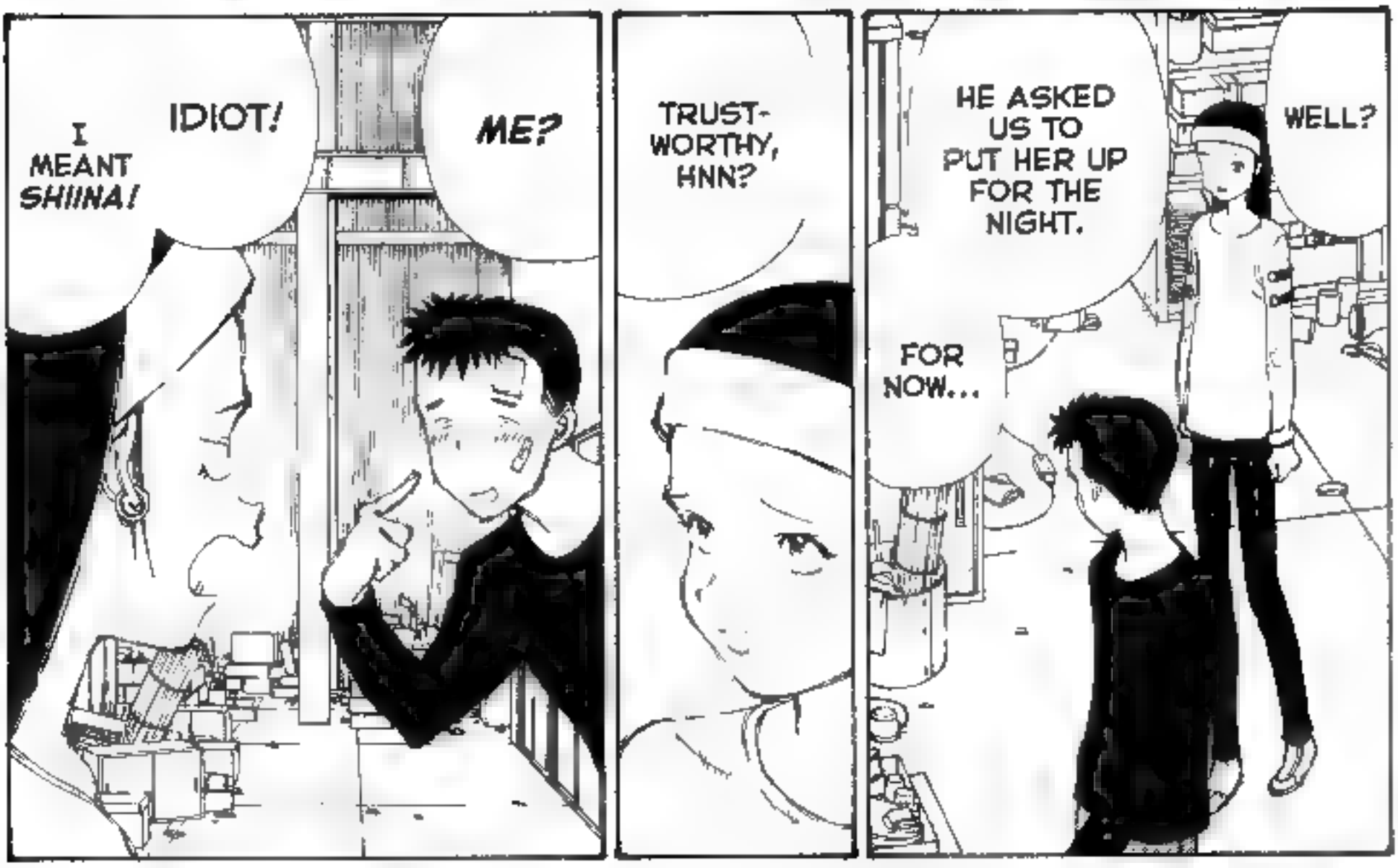
NO, IT'S JUST... I HARDLY EVER HAVE IT.

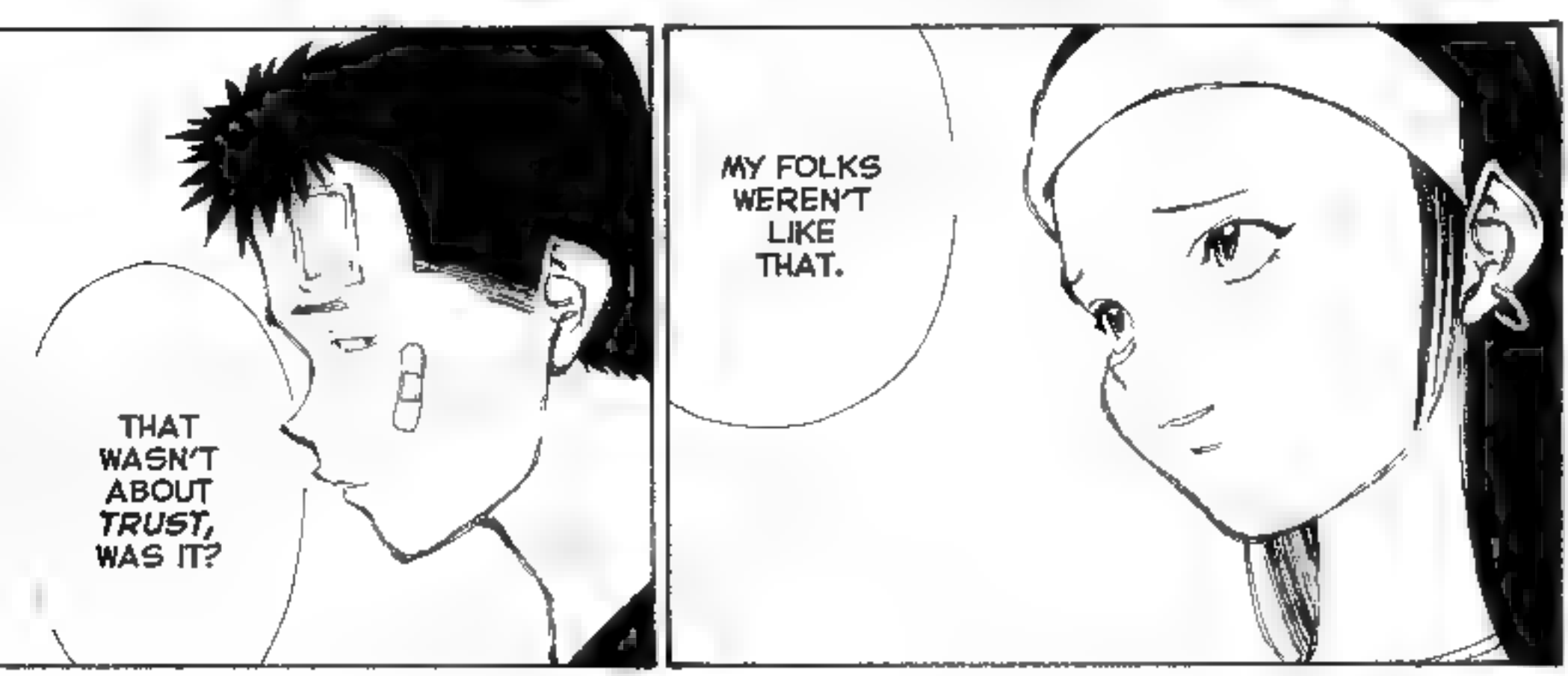
SORRY TO CALL THIS LATE.

MY NAME'S TSURU-MARU.

I'M CALLING TO TELL YOU ABOUT SHIINA--


YES.
YES, SHE'S HERE RIGHT NOW.


I MEANT SHIINA!
IDIOT!
ME?
TRUST-WORTHY, HNN?
HE ASKED US TO PUT HER UP FOR THE NIGHT.
WELL?
FOR NOW...


THAT WASN'T ABOUT TRUST, WAS IT?
MY FOLKS WEREN'T LIKE THAT.

SO...

SHIINA DID, *TOO.*

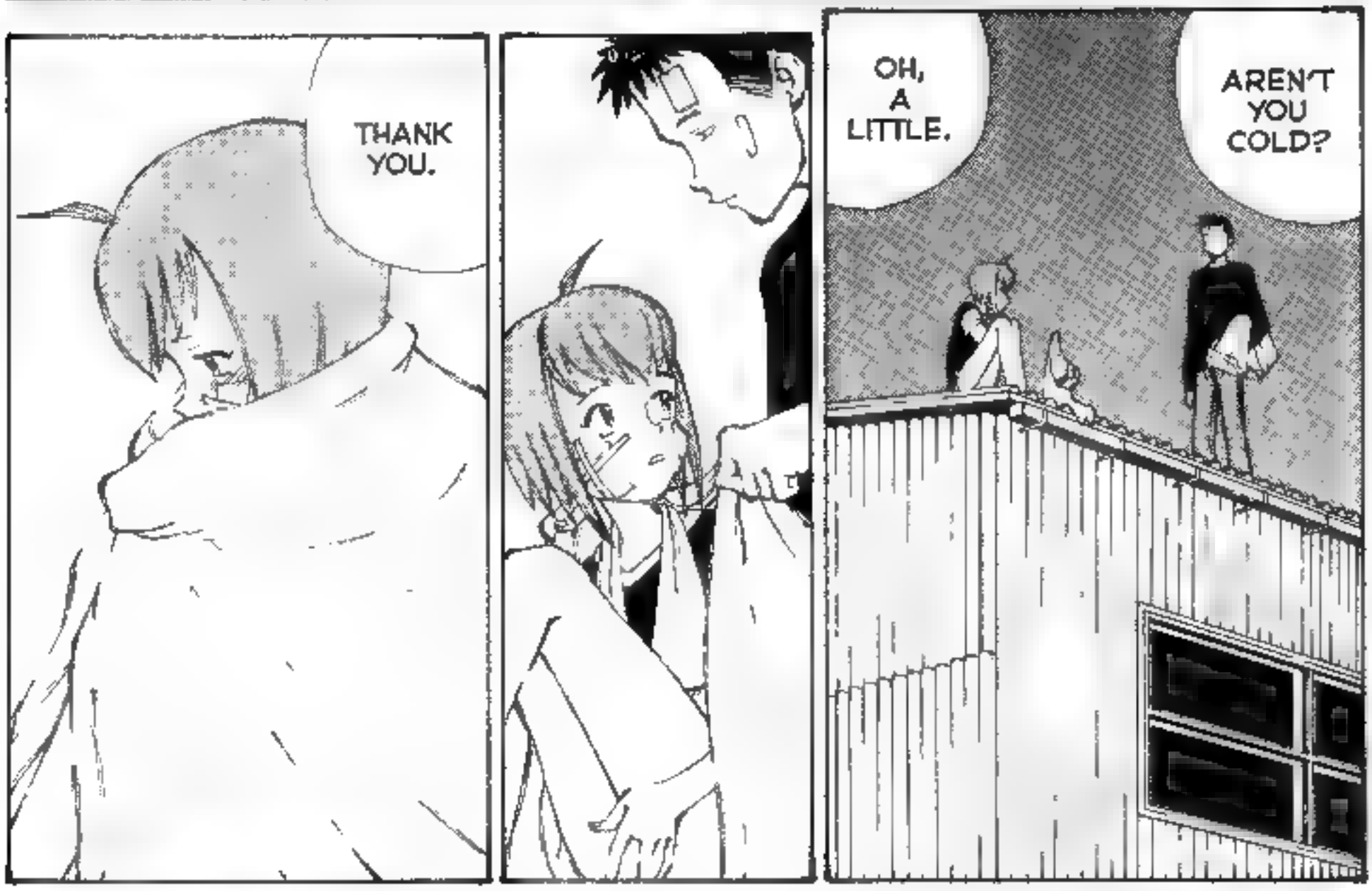
YOU RAN AWAY AND ALL...

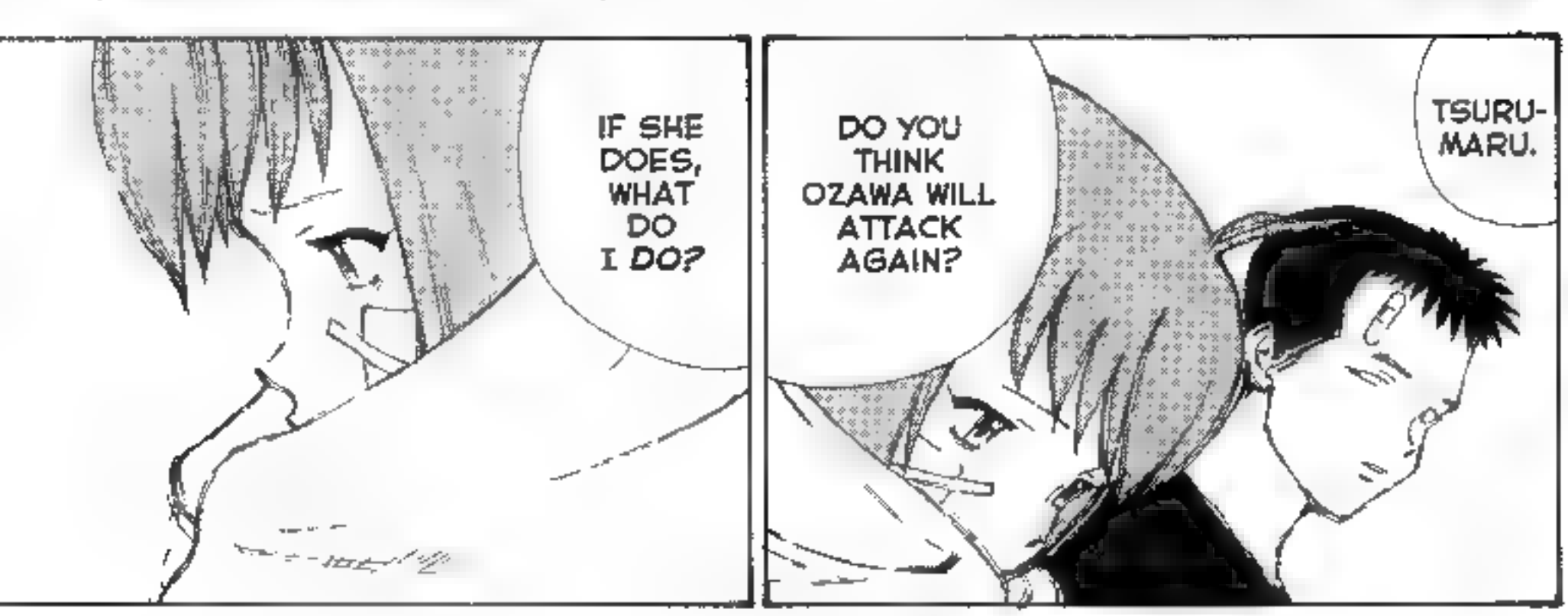
WHAT ABOUT THE TOILET ...AND *BATHS?*

THE *FOOD'S* SET-TLED.

I'M *"TRUST-ING"* YOU.

LEAVE IT TO *ME!*


THANK YOU.
OH, A LITTLE.
AREN'T YOU COLD?


IF SHE DOES, WHAT DO I DO?
DO YOU THINK OZAWA WILL ATTACK AGAIN?
TSURU-MARU.

WHY ARE THINGS TURNING OUT THIS WAY?

WE DON'T GET THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE.

WE JUST DO OUR BEST WITH WHAT WE'RE GIVEN.

...I THOUGHT IT WAS THE START OF SOMETHING *FUN.*

WHEN I MET HOSHI-MARU...

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN ALL THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...

JUST LIKE CHILDREN CAN'T CHOOSE THEIR PARENTS...

ME NEITHER.

I- I DON'T SMOKE!

WANNA SMOKE?

OKAY.

GO BACK TO YOUR DAD TOMORROW, OKAY?

PAST LIVES?

DO YOU BELIVE IN STUFF LIKE REINCAR-NATION?

LISTEN...

TSURU-MARU? YOU...?

I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU AND I WERE THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF THE MOON...

...OR HAPPY *HEDGEHOG* CHILDREN.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE SOUL?

"THE SOUL"...?

THAT'S WHAT THE DRAGONS SEEK...

YES. THE SOUL.

...THE *SUBSTANCE* OF THE *SOUL.*

Shadow Star - Narutaru

Translated by Katydid
Edited by Jinchi

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

shadow star☆

Pinup & sketches by Mohiro Kitoh

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shadow star

MOTHER OF RUSSIA, PART 1

story & art by MOHIRO KITOH

Read this way

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DEAD), EVENTS OR INSTITUTIONS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

VVS CONTACT NORTHWEST, FOUR-HUNDRED KLICKS. EXERCISE CAUTION.

OCHAKOVO ONE, OCHAKOVO TWO, ENTERING THE TRAINING RANGE.

NO EXCESS gs/ PULL ANYTHING EXTREME, AND I TAKE OVER THE CONTROLS.

ARE YOU READY, TAMAI?

INITIATE AIR COMBAT DRILL.

DON'T LET THAT GOAT-FACED BASTARD SERGEI GET YOU!

EXCELLENT! NOW SMACK DOWN OCHAKOVO TWO!

HARASHO...

...TEACHER.

VVS: VOYENNO-VOZDUSHNYYE SILY, THE RUSSIAN AIR FORCE
HARASHO: COMMON RUSSIAN WORD FOR "OKAY" OR "GOOD."

FLIGHT

WHISSHHH

AH!

WHERE IS HE?

TAMAN

SHOW THIS UGLY BASTARD WHAT YOU GOT!

MIHARA!

HARASHO.

YOU'RE MINE, MISTER TAMAI.

TAMAI

GOOD EYES, KID.

GOT HIM!

RIGHT ROLL!

FSHHH

Read this way

KHNN

Up! VREEEE

FCHAK

MISSILE LOCK ON.

TAMAN

SORRY, KID.

BREED

OVER-SHOT!

GOOD-NIGHT.

MISTER TAMAI! ANOTHER DOGFIGHT!

AGAIN! AGAIN!

TAMAI'S BETTER?!

GHARR!

I'M ALONG FOR THE RIDE.

DA, HE'S YOUNG.

AND MIHARA?

FINE BY ME.

TAMAI?

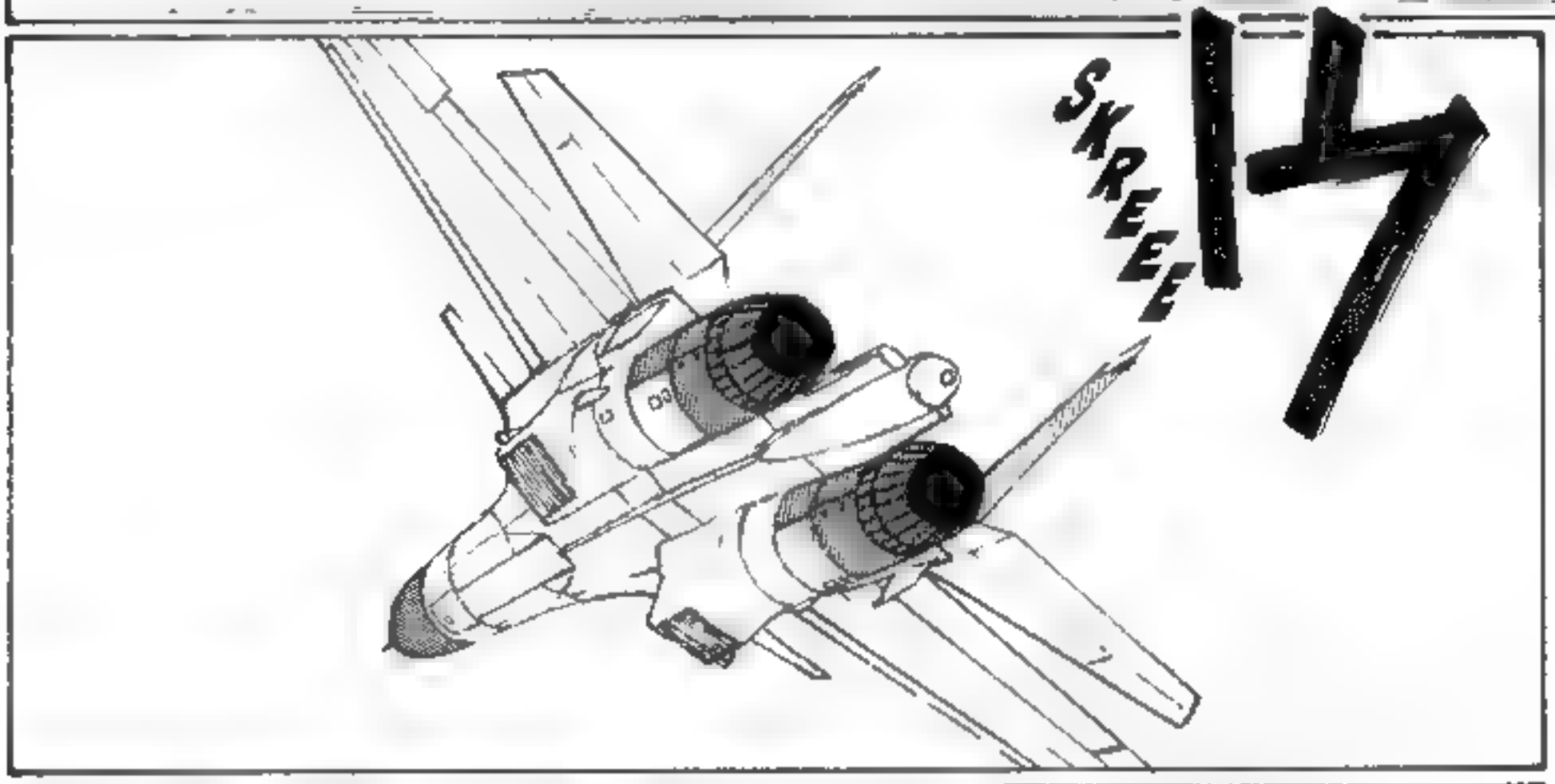
WELL?

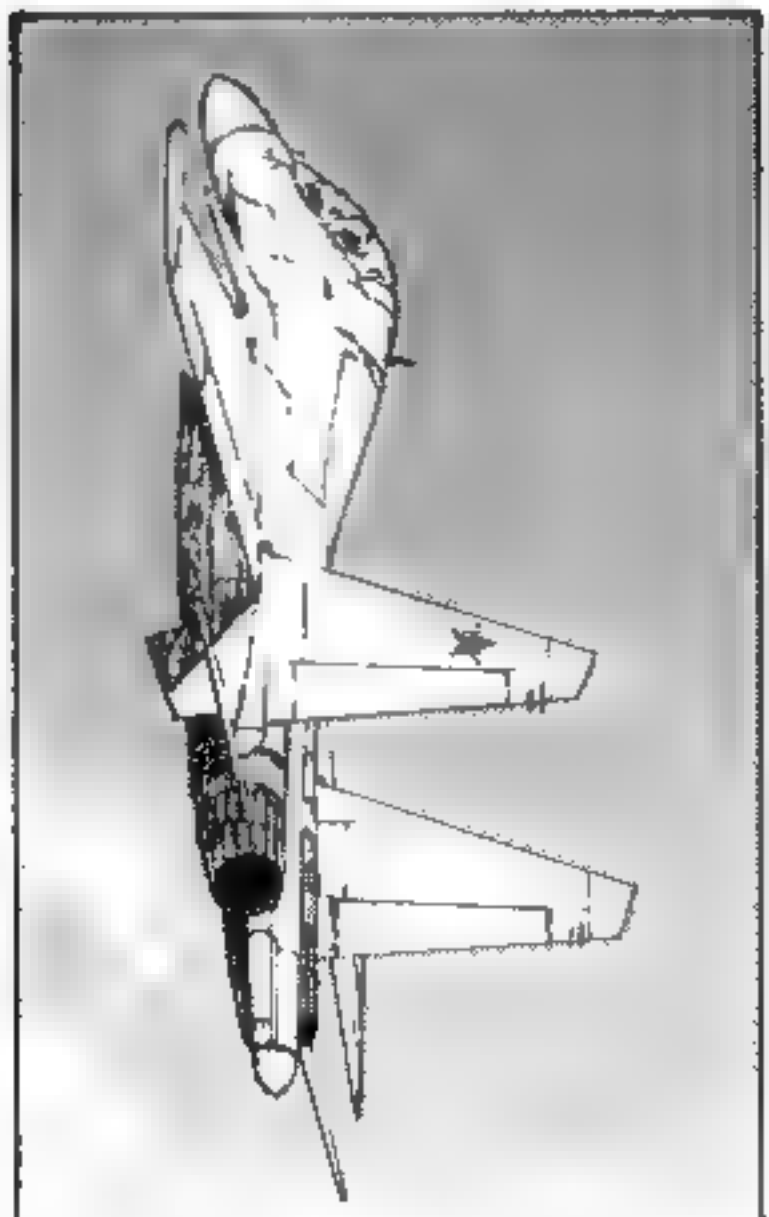
AND DON'T LOSE!

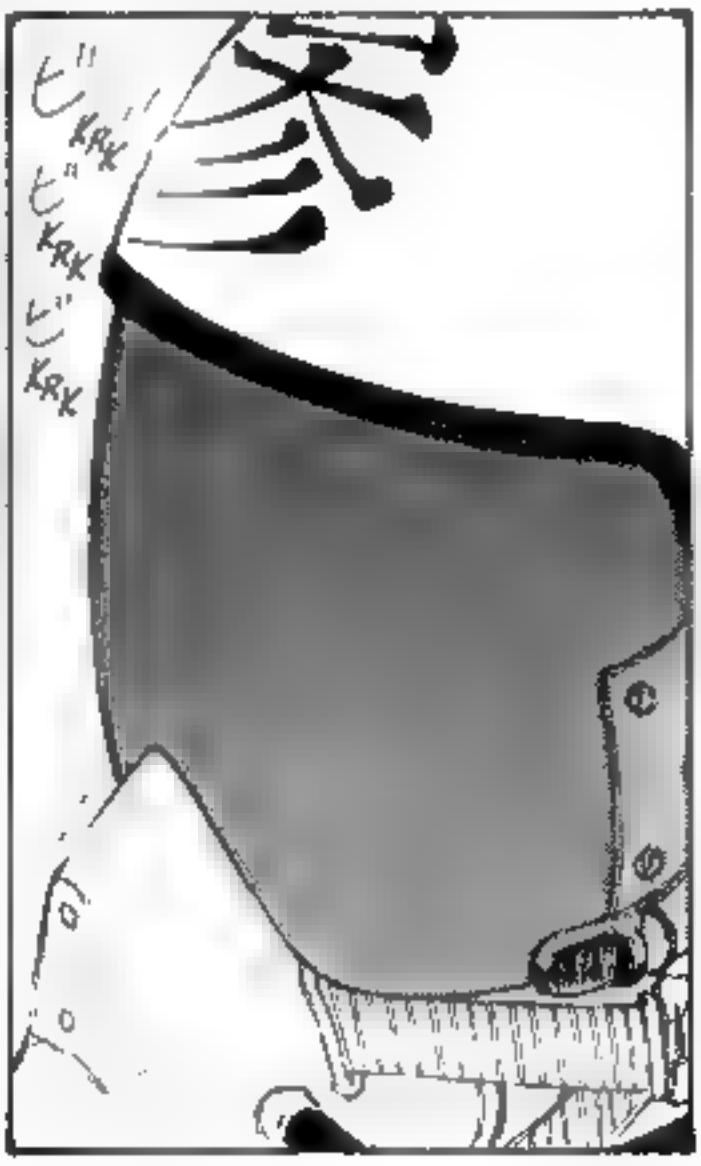
CHARGE!!

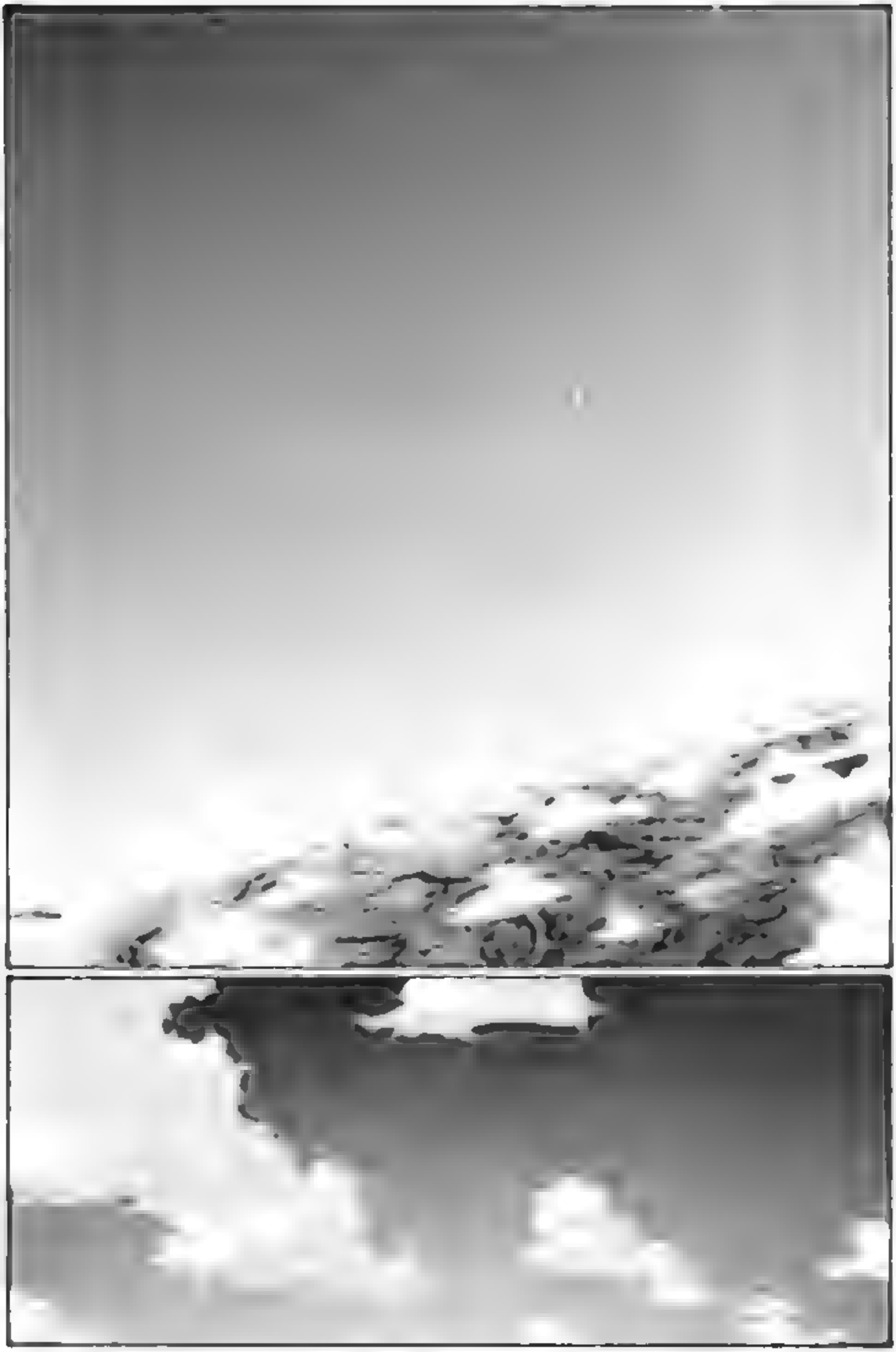
MIHARA!

F-14
VROOSHH


SKREEE




KRK
KRK
KRK



I CAN'T TOUCH YOU, MISTER TAMAI.

AHHH, MAN...

GEE, THANKS.

I THINK THEY WERE BETTING ON US.

WHAT THE--?

MY HEART BLEEDS, GOATBOY!

I'VE JUST BEEN RIDING *QUIRKY BIRDS* ALL MY LIFE.

NAW. MIHARA HANDLES THE *CY-30* FINE, LIKE A GOOD F-15 JOCKEY SHOULD.

TAMAI IS *BRILLIANT*, YOU MEAN?

IT'S ALL IN THE *TEACHING*.

CY-30 SUKHOI SU-30 FLANKER INTERCEPTOR

WHAT'S MIHARA'S *PROBLEM*, EH?

YOU WILL TAKE THIS TAMAI BEFORE YOU SEE JAPAN AGAIN!

YEAH...

NOW, SHIRO MIHARA, *DEBRIEF!*

...WHO THINKS HE STILL OWES HIS OLD *TEACHER*.

HE'S AN UPRIGHT YOUNG MAN...

I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS.

ENOUGH OF THAT.

MY ACHING *NECK.*

OWWW...

I'M GIVING IT *MY ALL,* SIR.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

OR AM I LECTURING AGAIN?

MIHARA, YOU'RE BACKING OFF ON ME. LET YOUR *TALENT* THROUGH.

FLIGHT TRAINING... ON *FLANKERS?*

MY FIRST JOB AFTER JOINING *MOTOKI.*

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

ME... IN *RUSSIA?* WITH *YOU?*

BUT, GOSH, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT, MISTER TAMAI?

IT'S NOT *FAIR,* SIR. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN *ONO.*

LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.

RIGHT. *ONO...*

ONO'S PICTURE.

WHAT'S THAT?

TAKE HIM WITH YOU, SHE SAID.

HIS MOM ASKED ME.

SHE MUST REALLY HURT.

AHH, THE *BRIDE.* SHE WOULDN'T SEE ME.

AND HIS BRIDE ...?

HIS *MOM?*

THAT STINKS.

...SHE'S GETTING *RE-MARRIED.*

NAW, ACTU-ALLY...

I GUESS SHE HAD HER REASONS, BUT...

...BUT SHE WASN'T... *FAMILY.*

IT'S NOT NICE TO SAY...

YUP. THAT'S LIFE.

OR MAYBE... THAT'S LIFE?

...*PARENTS* DON'T GET OFF SO EASY.

...THAT'S WAY TOO HARSH.

YOUR OWN CHILD DYING *BEFORE* YOU...

Read this way

THAT THING THAT ATTACKED YOU AND ONO.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS?

ЗОЛОТО

I FELT SOME-THING LIKE *AWE.*

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING *ELSE,* AWE, MAYBE?

YOU KNOW, I'M *ANGRY* AT IT, SURE. ONO'S *KILLER* AND ALL.

WHAT, INDEED.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A *PILOT...?*

I SURE DIDN'T FEEL IT FROM THAT MONSTER AT MOTOKI.

TRANSCENDING HUMANITY. TRANSCENDING *LIFE.*

AN EXISTENCE SO *FAR BEYOND* OURS.

...ME?

EH?! UH...

YOU'VE SEEN 'EM, RIGHT?

WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

YOU GUYS *SCRAMBLED* ON ONE, RIGHT?

COME ON. EVERYONE AT MOTOKI KNOWS.

I'M SWORN TO *SECRECY.* THEY MADE ME SIGN SOMETHING.

OH, *MAN...*

OKAY.

30 HHWFF

BET THEY DID!

BUT THIS IS *JUST BETWEEN US.* PROMISE?

ABOUT TWENTY METERS LONG.

I THINK IT WAS THE SAME THING SUZUKI AND KURA SAW.

YEAH... I GUESS SO.

SEEING A THING LIKE THAT?

WELL, WHO *WOULDN'T* BE?

THE ONE WITH A GIRL RIDING IT?

THAT ONE?

NOT ON THE ONE *I* SAW. SO MAYBE IT'S *DIFFERENT?*

THERE WAS A *GIRL?*

DRAW? REALLY?

CAN YOU DRAW IT?

"OH, MY GOD! OH, MY *GOD!*"

THEY WERE *TOTALLY FREAKED,* THOSE TWO.

EVEN OLD SUZUKI.

HEH.
SORRY...

THIS RUSSIAN SUN SETS SO *LATE* IN THE SUMMER. IT'S LIKE A BONUS PRIZE.

WOW, IT'S ALREADY NINE.

....
....

THAT BACKPACK ISN'T QUITE YOUR STYLE, SIR.

MY DAUGHTER INSISTED.

I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.

FWMP

IT DOESN'T HOLD MUCH, AND IT'S DAMN *EMBAR-RASSING!*

AH?!

COME BACK HERE!!

MISTER TAMA!!

МИЛИЦИЯ

YOU GOTTA *FIND* HIM!

SOMEONE STOLE *MY* BACK-PACK!

⇦ This way please

YOU, TOO.

MY... PASS-PORT?

SHOW ME IDENTIFI-CATION.

I TOLD YOU. IT WAS JUST *STOLEN!*

BOTH OF YOU.

YOU COME WITH US.

NYET. WORK.

TOURIS-TA?

I'M THE *VICTIM!!*

WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING *WE* DID IT?!

THAT'S *ILLEGAL!* *NO!* *DON'T!*

SHOULD WE SLIP THEM SOME-THING?

THEY'RE *MILITSIYA.* THEY WON'T LISTEN.

MISTER TAMAI.

MILITSIYA RUSSIAN POLICE

OH, FOR *SHAME!*

...MY SON'S *GUESTS?*

JUST *WHERE* ARE YOU TAKING...

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE US *LATE?*

I WAS ABOUT TO SHOW THEM TO OUR HOUSE.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR FATHERS' FACES!

STANDING AROUND LIKE LUMPS ON A LOG. GOOD FOR *NOTHING.*

YOU *MILITSIYA* BOYS AREN'T GOOD FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT POCKETING *VYZATKA!*

VYZATKA. BR BES

MY *BOY'S GUESTS,* YOU MEAN!

WE'RE JUST INVESTIGATING SUSPICIOUS TRAVELERS--

IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CART OFF MY INNOCENT *GUESTS,* YOU GO GET THOSE *MAFIYA,* EH?!

JUST MAKING THINGS *WORSE,* YOU WERE! YOU *LIKE* THAT, DO YOU?

AND WHAT WERE THOSE RESTRICTIONS LAST *MAY DAY,* EH?

СТОП

YOUR MOTHERS MUST BE *CRYING.*

YOU WISH TO *HUMILIATE* AN OLD WOMAN?

NOW TAKE THIS AND BE ON YOUR WAY.

THWMP

YOU SAVED OUR--

MA'AM! THANK YOU!

BRMMM

AH!

H-HOW DID YOU...

I PEEKED INSIDE, I DID.

WAS I *BAD?*

THIS THING. *YOURS,* EH?

THAT MAN LET OUT A HOLLER AND THREW IT AWAY.

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY *BUSINESS,* CAN I?

COME. WALK WITH ME.

AH?! WAIT!

CAN I OFFER YOU...

HOWEVER CAN I THANK YOU?

SO MANY LEFT OVER.

YOU TWO CAN HAVE ONE, TOO.

FWMP ぼ" す

MY RIDE WON'T BE HERE FOR ANOTHER HOUR.

SET YOURSELF DOWN AWHILE.

PILOTS, ARE YOU?

YOU YOUNG MEN.

NO.

WS?

UHM, YES, MA'AM. HOW--?

HE HAD *THE LOOK.*

THAT BOY IN THE PICTURE.

...WE'RE A COMPANY. IT'S COMPLEX...

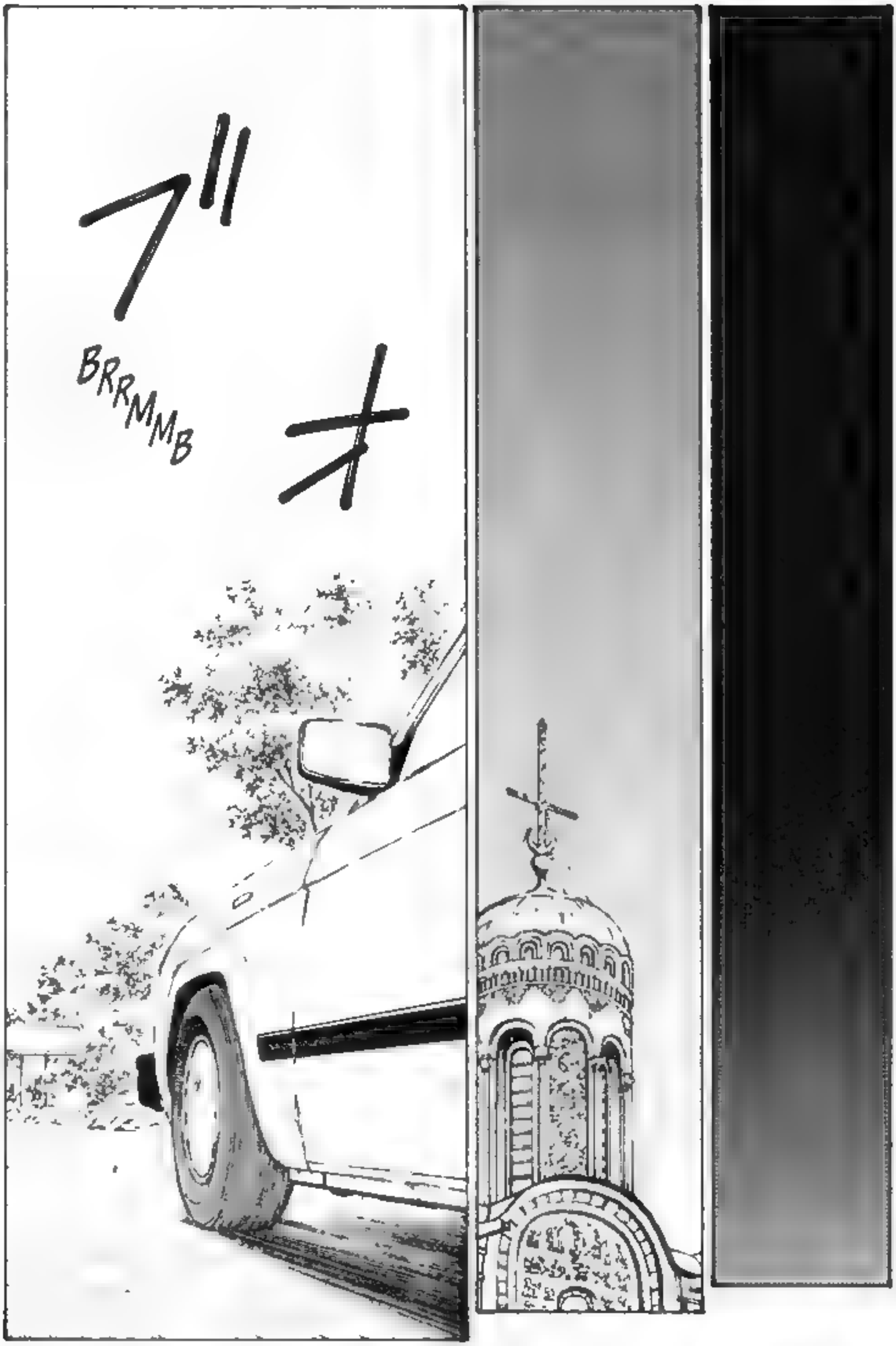
WE FLY *MILITARY JETS,* BUT...

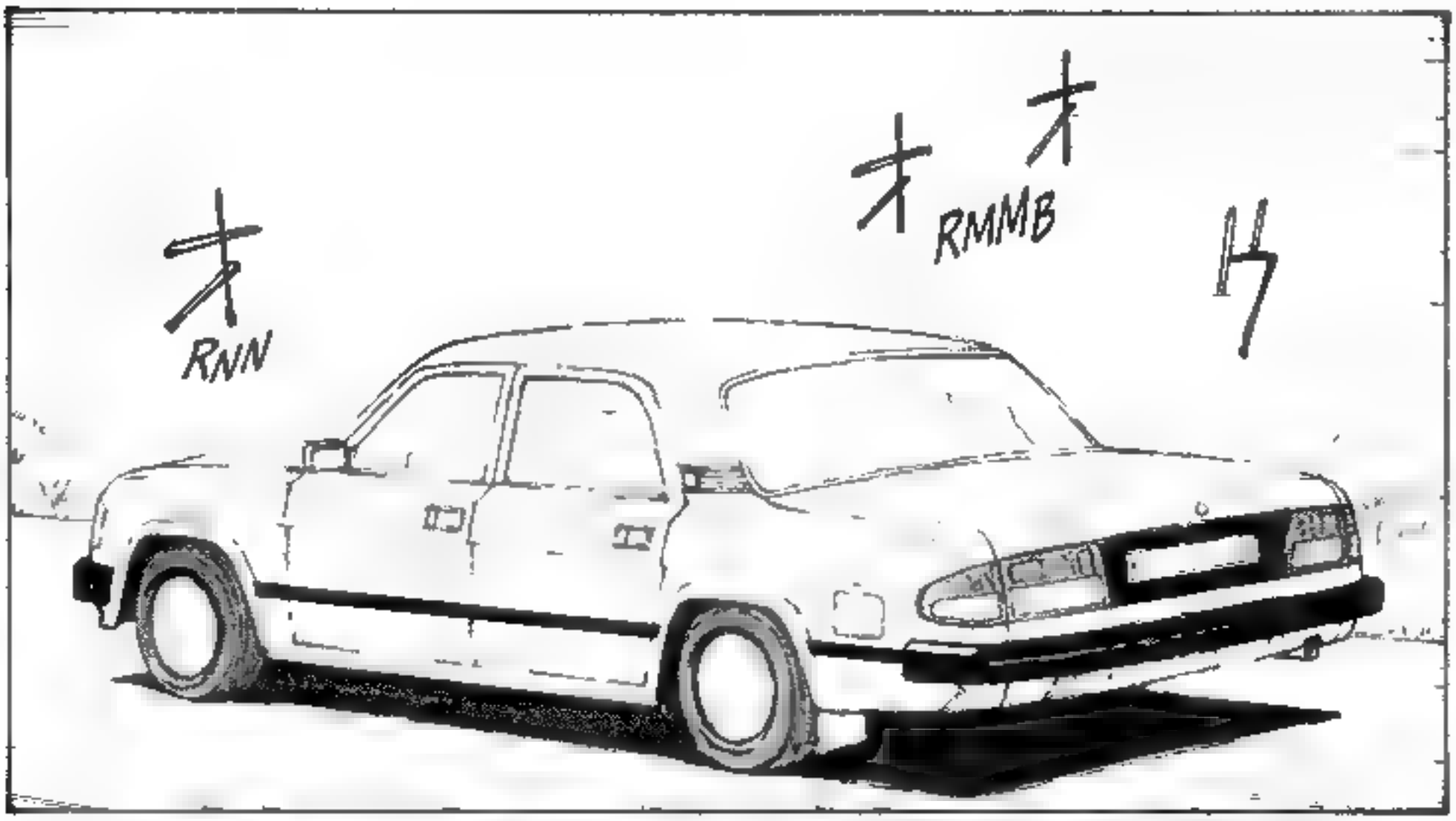
OF COURSE.

MAY I ASK YOU A *FAVOR?*

...IN ONE OF YOUR *JETS.*

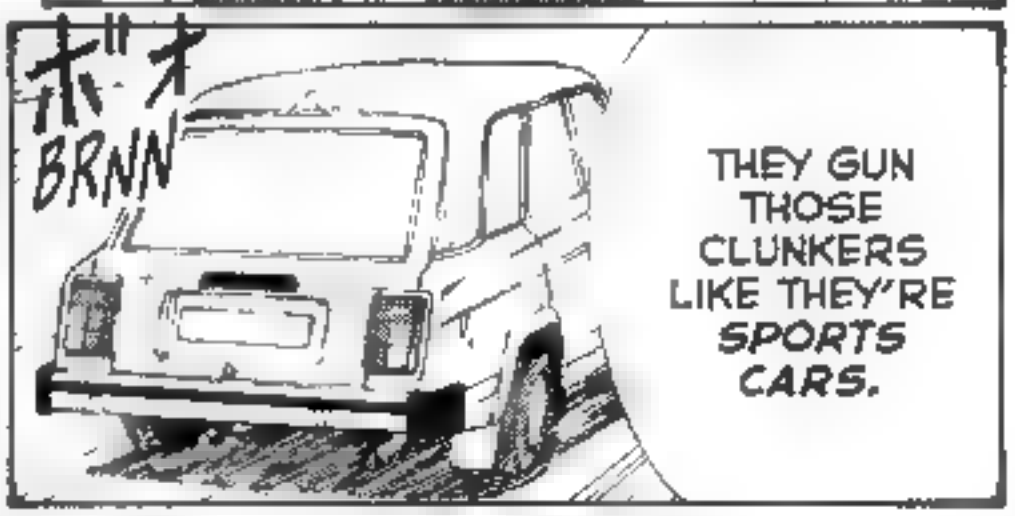
TAKE ME UP...

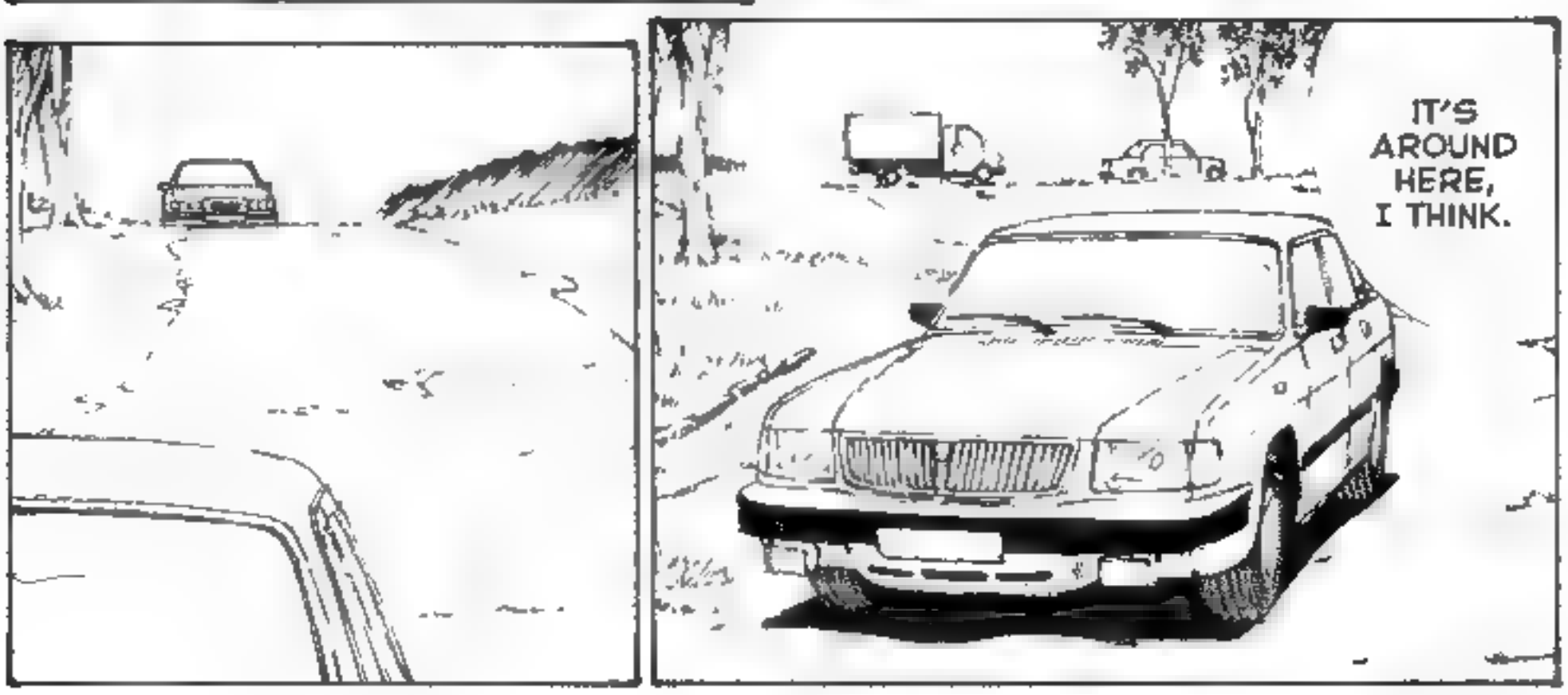

7 11
BRRMMB


RNN
RMMB

YOU JUST SLEEP, MISTER TAMAI!
I'M USED TO IT.

I'VE BEEN DRIVING HERE A MONTH, AND I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO THESE RUSSIAN ROADS.


ボォ
BRNN
THEY GUN THOSE CLUNKERS LIKE THEY'RE SPORTS CARS.


IT'S AROUND HERE, I THINK.

I THINK.

I'VE GOT IT NOW.

IF WE GET TOO LOST, WE ASK *THEM.*

MISTER TAMAI, ARE YOU *REALLY* THINKING ABOUT IT?

WHAT SHE SAID?

HAH HAH HAH!

IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS, LIKE THEY'RE GONNA *ABDUCT* US.

...LET'S HEAR HER STORY.

BUT, WELL...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

...IT COULD *KILL* THE OLD LADY.

I MEAN, LIKE...

I'M *SURE* SHE'S GOT A STORY.

A VACATION SPOT? SWEET.

A *DACHA* TOWN, LOOKS LIKE.

MORE LIKE, SECOND HOMES IN THE 'BURBS.

BUT *DACHAS* AREN'T REALLY *VACATION* HOMES.

IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD, KICKING BACK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

WHOLE *FAMILIES* IN TWO ROOMS.

THEIR CITY APARTMENTS ARE SO *TINY.*

MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO ENFORCE EQUALITY...

...MAYBE?

WHY'D THEY BUILD *APARTMENT BLOCKS,* WHEN THEY'VE GOT ALL THIS *LAND?*

GOOD DAY.

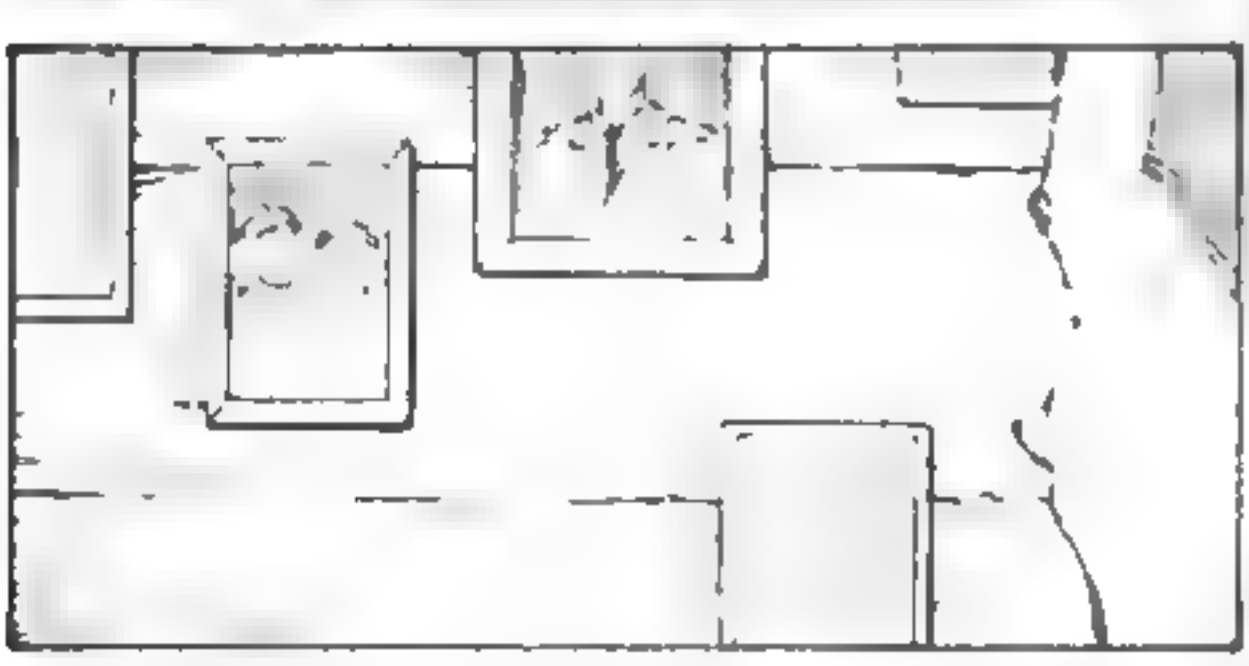
WATERMELONS IN THE SUMMER KEEP YOU HEALTHY, EH.

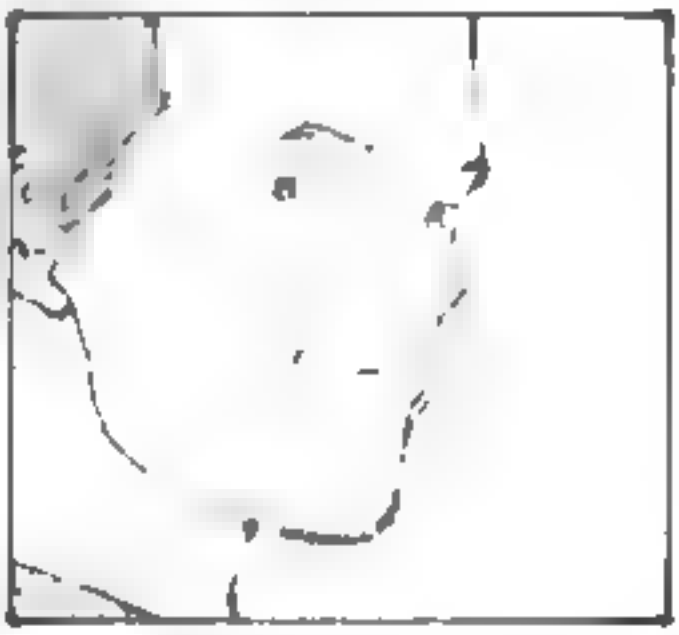
MAKE SURE YOU FINISH IT.

WE SURE DID. IT WAS DELICIOUS.

DO COME IN.

DID YOU EAT YOUR WATERMELON LIKE GOOD BOYS?





AND I'M TAMAI SHUNJI.

MIHARA SHIRO.

I'M INNA VIKTOROVNA MIRO-NOWA.

I NEVER DID ASK YOUR NAMES, EH.

I LIKE A PEOPLE WITH ETIQUETTE.

THE LAND OF *JUDO.*

JAPA-NESE, ARE YOU?

SHALL WE HAVE SOME TEA?

NOW DON'T GO ASKING ALL THESE QUESTIONS.

IS YOUR SON *MILITARY?*

NOW I DO, YES.

DO YOU LIVE HERE ALONE, MA'AM?

IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE HE PASSED, IT HAS.

MY HUSBAND WAS A PEASANT TO THE BONES.

NOW, MY BOY RYORYA LEONID... HE WAS LIKE *YOU.*

A *PILOT.*

A BIT *TACITURN,* EH.

HE ALWAYS TOOK WORK SERIOUSLY.

...ANY TIME THOSE PARTY FOOLS GAVE STUPID ORDERS, LIKE THEY ALWAYS DID.

THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D GO STRAIGHT TO THE COLLECTIVE'S COMMITTEE...

...WE NEVER HAD MUCH LUCK. NOT US.

OH WELL, THANKS TO THAT...

HE WANTED HIM TO WORK THE LAND, JUST LIKE *HE* DID.

MY HUSBAND WAS OPPOSED.

...BUT HE RE-UPPED.

DRAFTED AT NINETEEN...

YOU COULD SAY THAT.

HE WAS NEVER DIS-CHARGED.

IS HE STILL IN THE SERVICE?

HE WENT ***MISSING*** EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO.

GONE MISSING.

IN TRAINING. WHILE HE WAS *FLYING*, EH?

...NOR HIS PLANE, EH?

THEY NEVER FOUND HIM...

AND SO...

HE WAS THIRTY.

...FOR MY RYORYA.

...I WANT TO *SEARCH*...

Read this way

...THAT MUCH TIME LEFT.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE...

SO *THAT'S* WHY?

...LIKE RYORYA FLEW.

OF *COURSE,* YOUNG MAN. THOSE *POINTY* ONES...

BUT, MA'AM, YOU DO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PLANES WE FLY?

THE *VVS* WON'T HELP ME, NOT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

I GOT THE *PVO* TO TELL ME.

PRETTY MUCH, EH.

IT TOOK ME TEN YEARS, THOUGH.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT *WHERE* HE CRAS-- WHERE HE WENT MISSING?

PVO AIR DEFENSE FORCES (VOYSKA PROT VOVOZDUSHNOY OBORONY) PRIOR TO THE REORGANIZATION OF RUSSIA'S VARIOUS AIR ARMS INTO THE **VVS**, THE **PVO** WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENDING RUSSIAN AIRSPACE

BUT I STILL WANT TO *LOOK* FOR HIM.

I KNOW.

...EVEN IF WE FOUND HIM--

BUT, I MEAN...

YOUR OWN *CHILD*...

YOU WOULD, TOO, WOULDN'T YOU?

...NO MAT-TER...

...WHAT YOU FOUND.

SOME-
THING
WRONG?

UHM...

...WHAT'S
THIS?

NO-
THING.

OH.

AH,
YES.

BABA
YAGA'S
HUT,
EH.

NOT LIKE *YOU*, EH, MIHARA?

HE WAS REALLY *GOOD.*

SHE'S A FAMOUS OLD WITCH FROM THE FAIRY TALES.

RYORYA DREW IT WHEN HE WAS A BOY.

...SAW IT?

HE...

AH, WELL, THE THINGS CHILDREN SAY.

RYORYA ALWAYS SAID HE'D *SEEN IT.*

...IN THE MIDNIGHT SKY.

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID. FLOATING...

EVER SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.

SUCH AN IMAGINATION HE HAD.

...BABA YAGA'S HUT IS.

IN A DEEP, DEEP FOREST...

...I'LL DO WHAT THEY SAY. MOVE INTO AN APARTMENT.

AND ME, GOTTEN SO OLD. MAYBE...

THE *MAFIYA* BUYING UP LAND, LIKE IT OR NOT.

IT'S ALL FALLING APART, EVEN OUT HERE.

SO... WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY SON, EH?

AND HOW OLD ARE *YOU*, EH?

FORTY-EIGHT THIS YEAR.

THE SAME AGE AS RYORYA.

I'LL *BE!*

BUT MISTER TAMAI, YOU SAID YOU'D LIKE TO KICK BACK...

UHM... I'VE GOT FAMILY... IN JAPAN...

ブオオオ BRNNN

RNN RNN RNN

"HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION"...

...I THINK IT WAS.

THAT *PHOTO.*

SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

THAT *MEDAL* HE WAS WEARING BUGS ME.

HER KID, WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

COULD BE.

JUST A *TOY,* RIGHT?

YOU'D HAVE TO DO SOMETHING PRETTY DAMN *BIG* IN THE WAR TO GET ONE OF THOSE.

MAN, WHEN I WAS LISTENING TO HER...

WHAT WILL YOU DO, MISTER TAMAI?

...KINSHIP.

...I FELT SOMETHING. SOME SORT OF...

DID WHAT?

MAYBE HE REALLY *DID*...

STRANGE MINDS... ABOVE THE SKY.

BUT...

...HOW?

SHALL WE?

"SHALL WE" ...?

EASIER TO DO IT IN *JAPANESE,* HE SAID.

SAID HE WANTED TO TEACH HIM SOME *NUANCES.*

TAMAI AND MIHARA? *TOGETHER?*

WELL, IF TAMAI'S ON-BOARD, THEY'RE FINE.

IT'S LIKE BEING BACK IN FLIGHT SCHOOL.

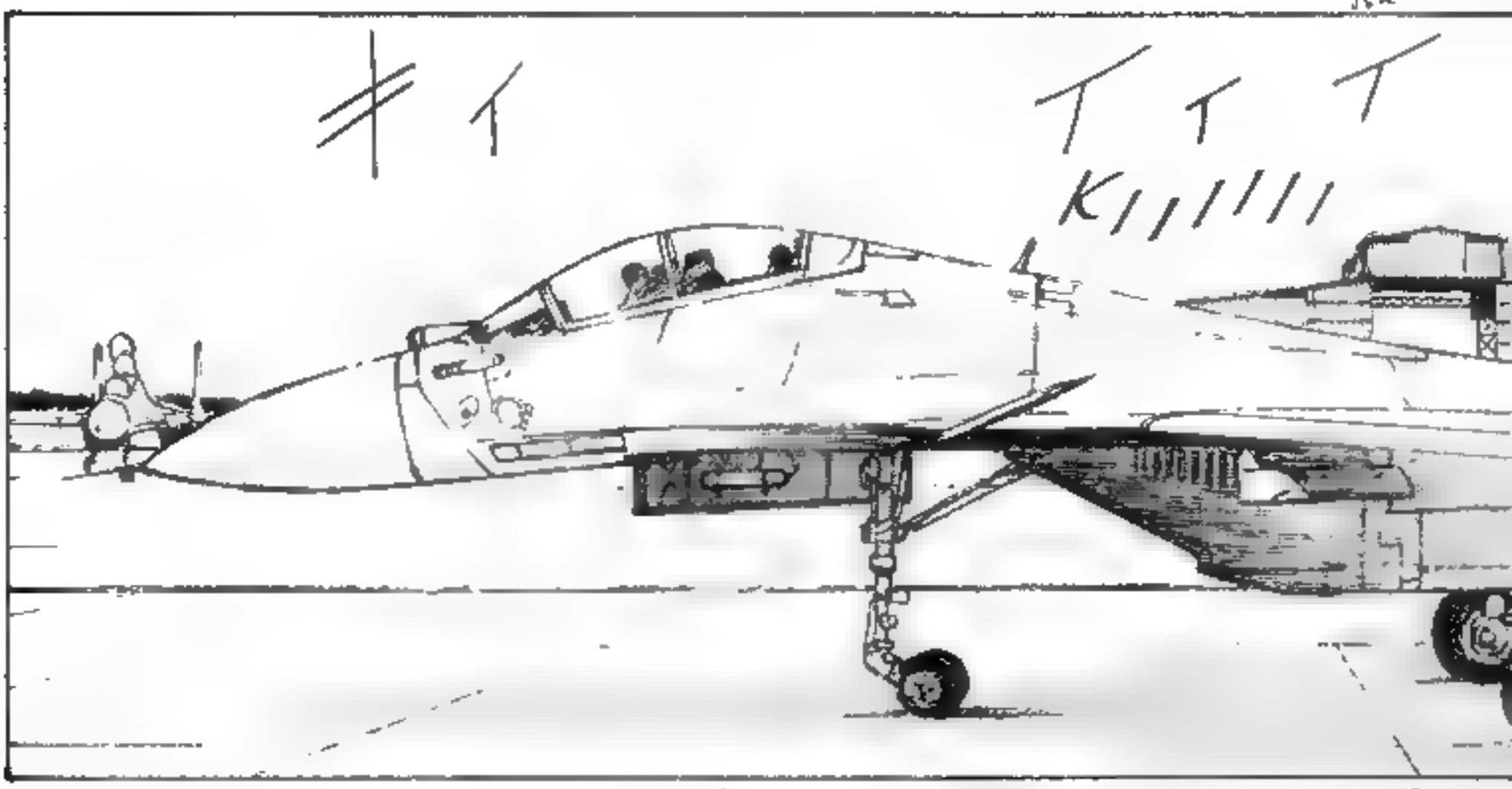
HE'S BETTER THAN THESE *HALF-ASSED INSTRUC-TORS.*

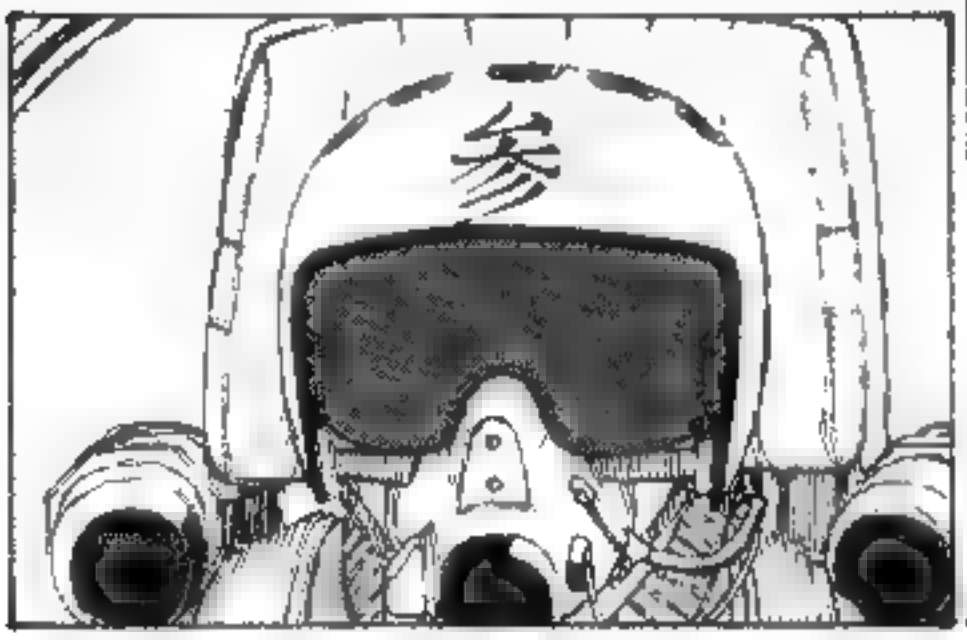
RNNNN

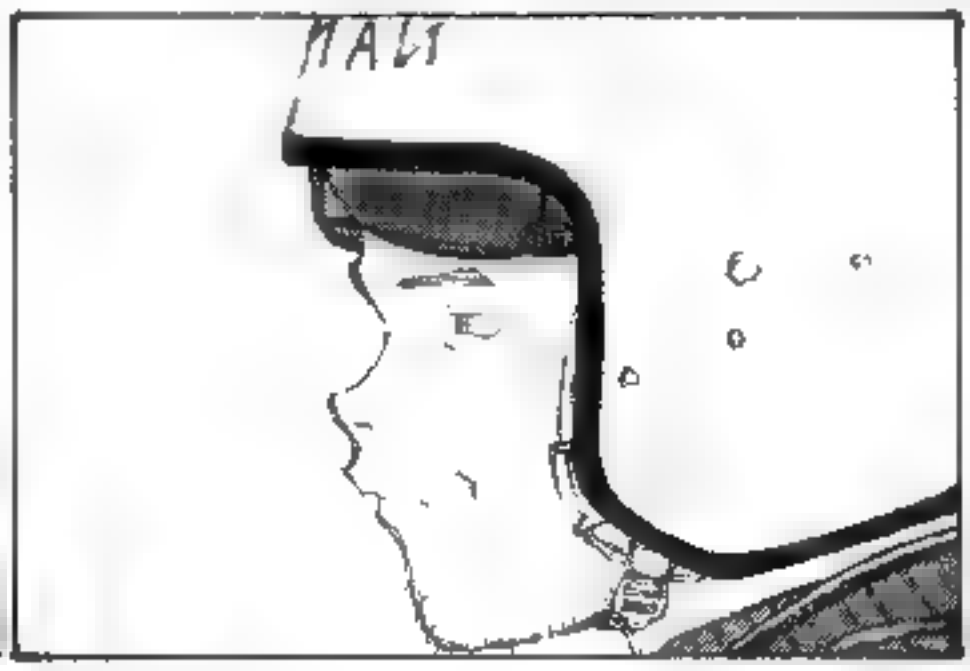
RNN

VRNN

HERE WE GO.







YOU BLEW THAT DOCTOR AWAY. HE COULDN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE SEVENTY-EIGHT!
WELL, YEAH.
THEN STOP DAWDLING... AND TAKE US UP.

DON'T YOU TREAT ME LIKE AN OLD LADY.
I WAS FINE IN THE PHYSICAL, EH?!
HOO BOY.

NOTHING UNCOM-FORTABLE?
DOING ALL RIGHT, MA'AM?

SHOOMM

ROGER.

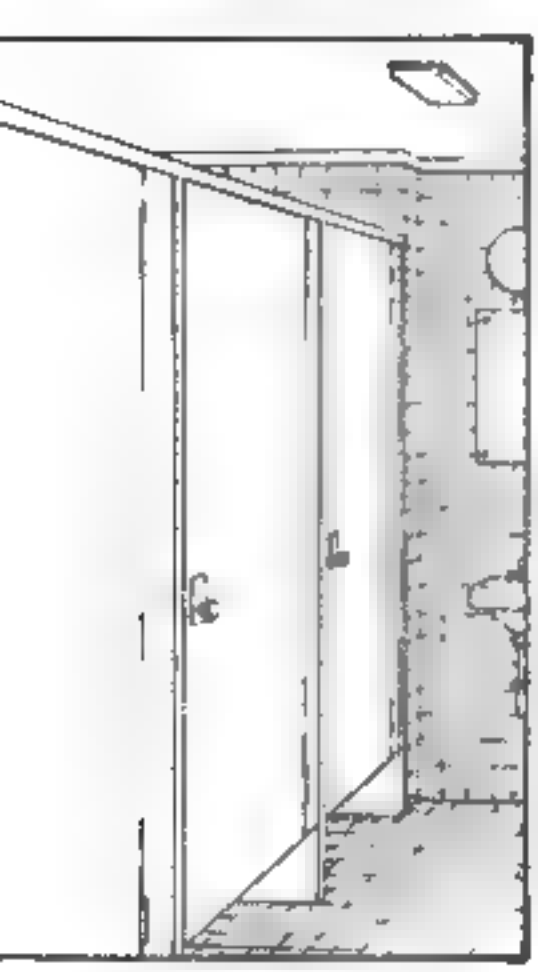
OCHAKOVA ONE, YOU'RE CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF.

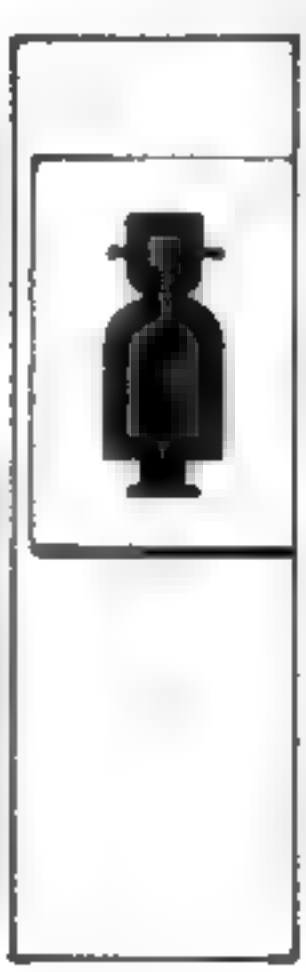
VREE

VRN

VRN

VHNNNN





MAYBE SINCE *MIHARA'S* ONBOARD?

I DIDN'T THINK THE KID WAS SUCH A WUSS.

TAKING OFF BY THE *BOOK?*

WHAT THE *HELL?* THAT'S NOT LIKE TAMAI.

OH, MAN...

EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO.

THE *PVO* MUST HAVE SEARCHED, TOO.

PRACTI-CALLY *HOPE-LESS.*

SPOTTING WRECKAGE FROM WAY UP HERE?

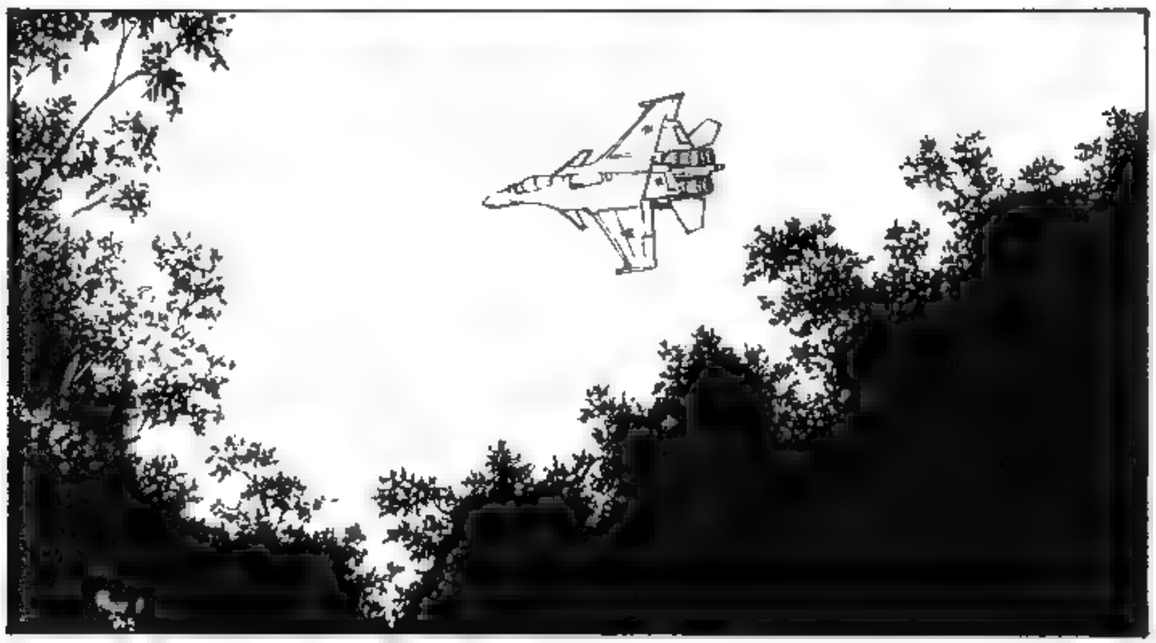
JUST... TO CONVINCE *HERSELF?*

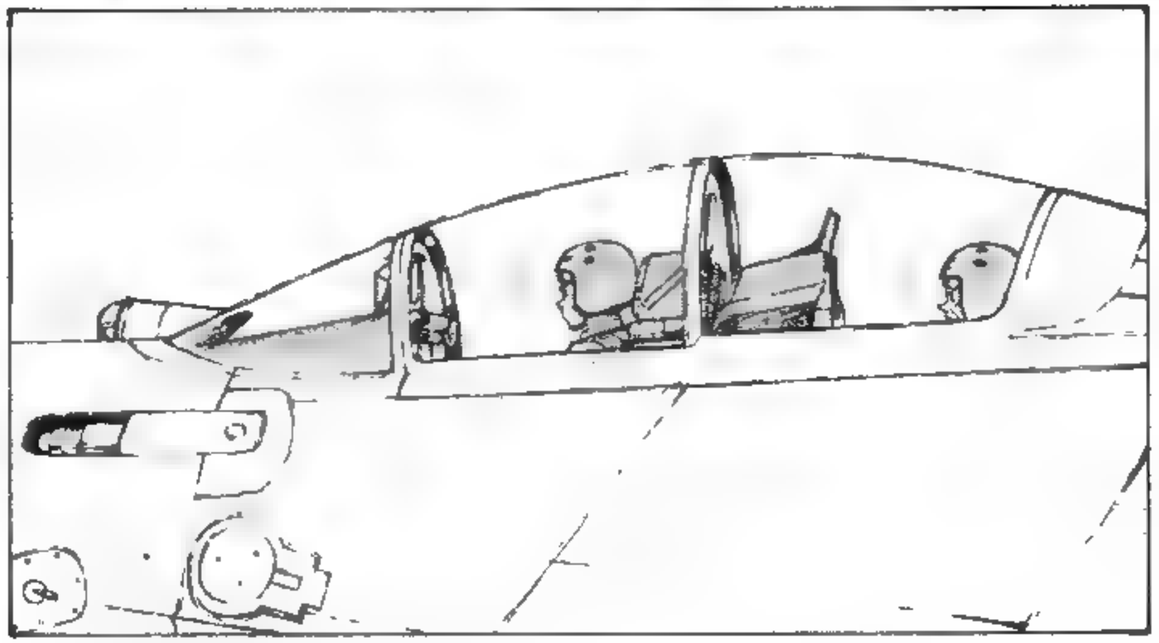
TAMAN

DON'T YOU *MOCK* ME, YOUNG MAN!

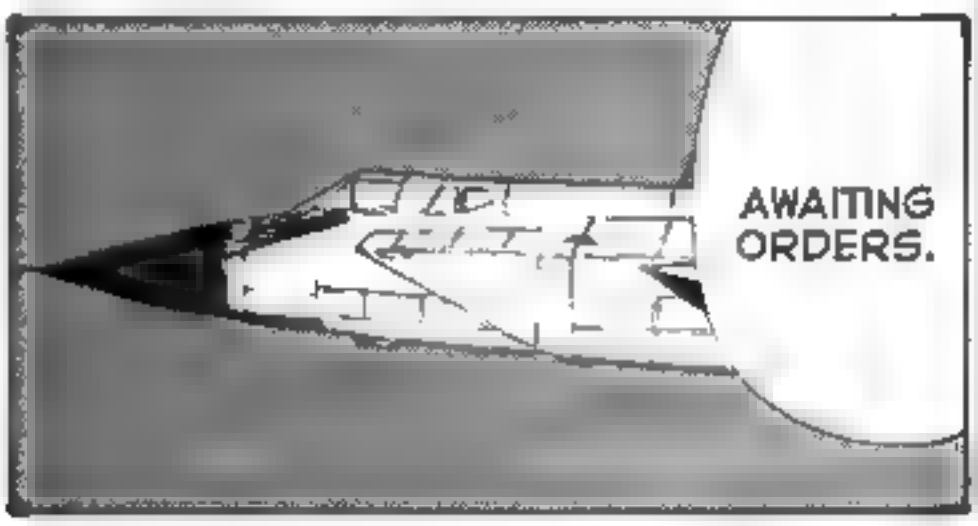
YOU CAN *SEE* OKAY, RIGHT?

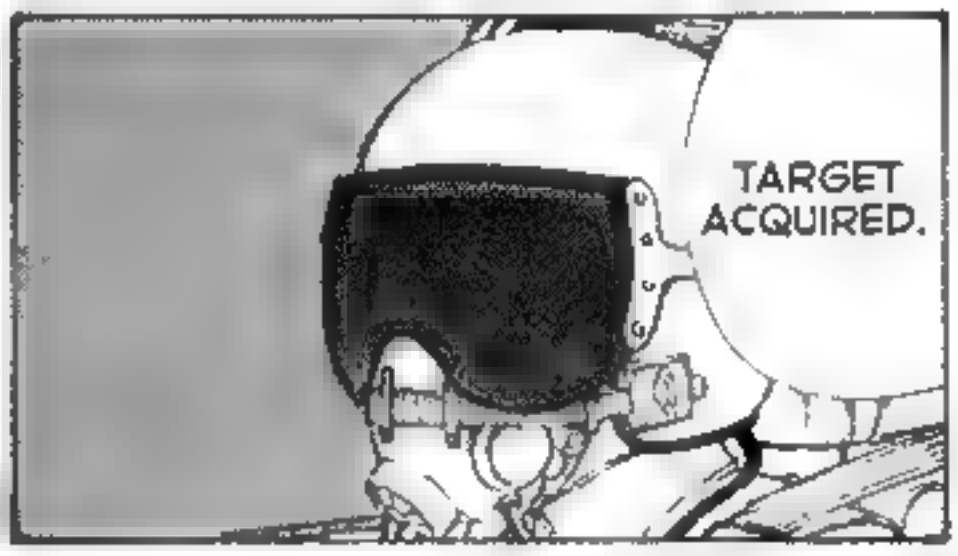
MA'AM, I'M TAKING US DOWN. YOU SEE SOMETHING, LET ME KNOW.

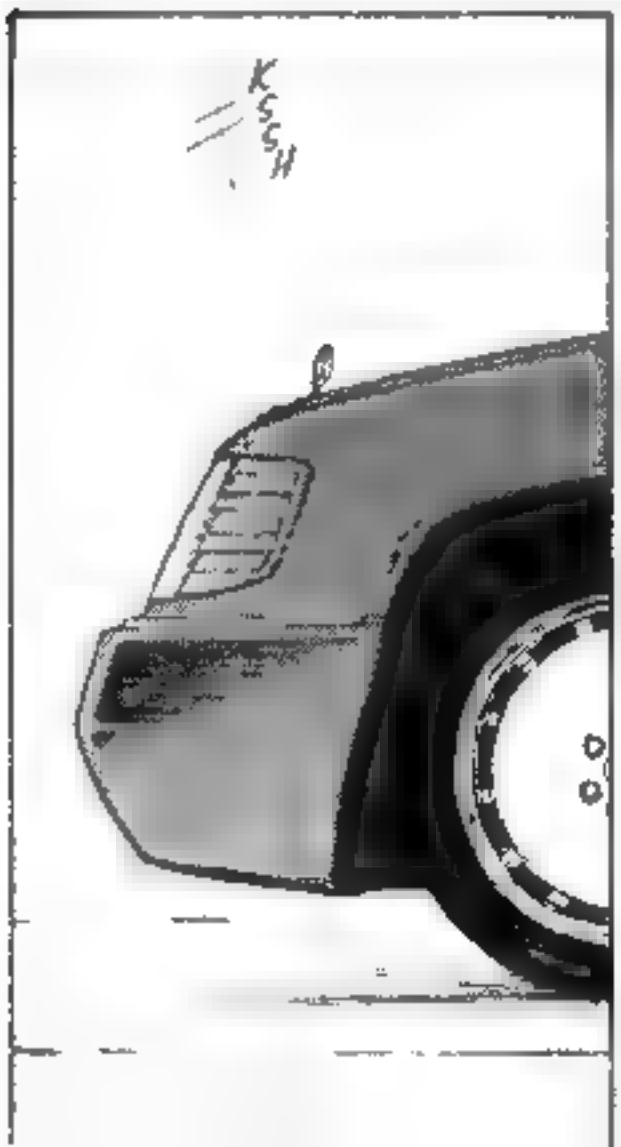




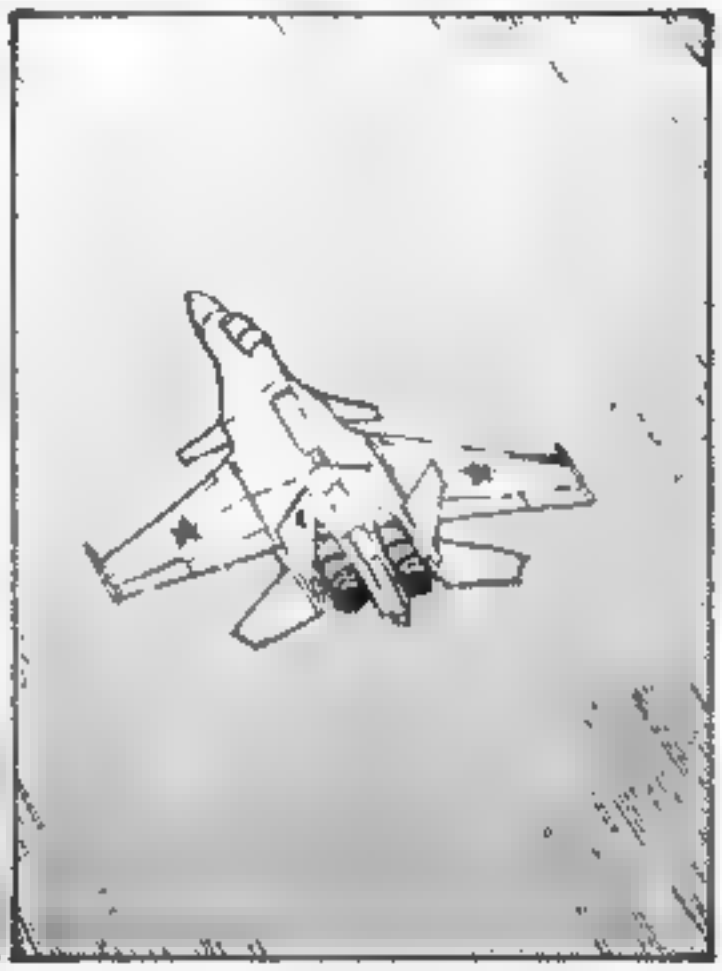
FWOOSH
FSHH

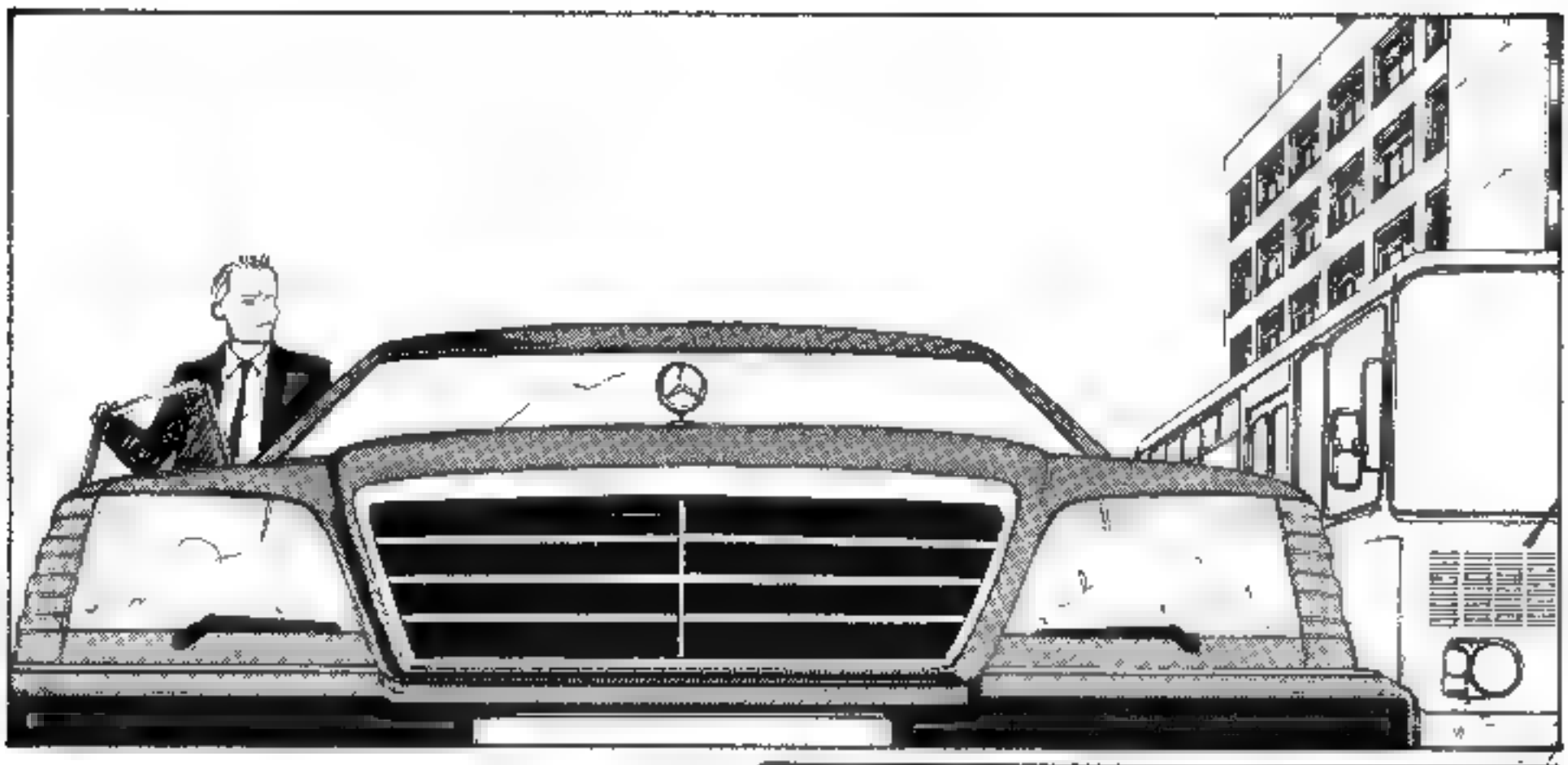

AWAITING ORDERS.


TARGET ACQUIRED.


KSSH

WHAT THE DEVIL?
SOME-ONE'S PAINTING US?
MAN





EXCELLENT. BRING THEM IN.
THE MIG-31s HAVE THE TARGET, SIR.

WHO'RE *THEY?*

TAMAI AND MIHARA AREN'T HERE NOW.

THEY'RE GOING TO GO *MISSING IN FLIGHT.*

I KNOW.

ONE OF MY UNITS WILL BRING THEM IN.

I REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION IN SECURING SHINJI TAMAI AND SHIRO MIHARA.

COLONEL RAKHMANINE, FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE.

FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE (FSB) RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE CREATED TO REPLACE THE **KGB** AFTER IT DISBANDED WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOVIET UNION

NATIONAL SECURITY.

THEY POSSESS CRITICAL INTEL.

IS THIS ALL *LEGAL?*

AND JUST WHAT HAVE THEY *DONE,* COLONEL?

HEH. UNTIL...

...THEY'RE *COM-PLETELY* HEALED.

WE'LL JUST BE TREATING THEIR INJURIES.

I GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.

DON'T WORRY.

ALL NICE AND *LEGAL.*

YOU HAVE AN OPINION, SUBMIT IT IN WRITING.

OCHAKOVA ONE. FOLLOW OUR GUIDANCE.

SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT, MA'AM.

WHAT'S GOING ON, EH?

NO NEED TO KNOW.

REQUESTING UNIT I.D. AND MISSION!

SUCH A FUSS.

THEY FOUND US OUT, EH?

...OR YOU'LL BE SHOT DOWN.

FOLLOW ORDERS...

SHK

BEEP

HAI

参

BORRING...

HAA...

FSB... KGB... THEY *NEVER* CHANGE.

THE *FSB* IS HERE?!

THEY'RE ARRESTING TAMAI AND MIHARA.

WHAT *NOW?*

THEN THEY DON'T HAVE TO PESTER US LIKE THAT!

OF COURSE NOT!

DID YOU OFFEND SOMEBODY?

HM

WHERE ARE THEY LEADING US TO?

EH?!

HM

AH!

START CHASING IT.

TARGET IS FLEEING!

I ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED SOMETHING, SORRY.

MOTHER?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

IT'S GOING TO GET A LITTLE ROUGH NOW!

WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.

NOW WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN, HMM?

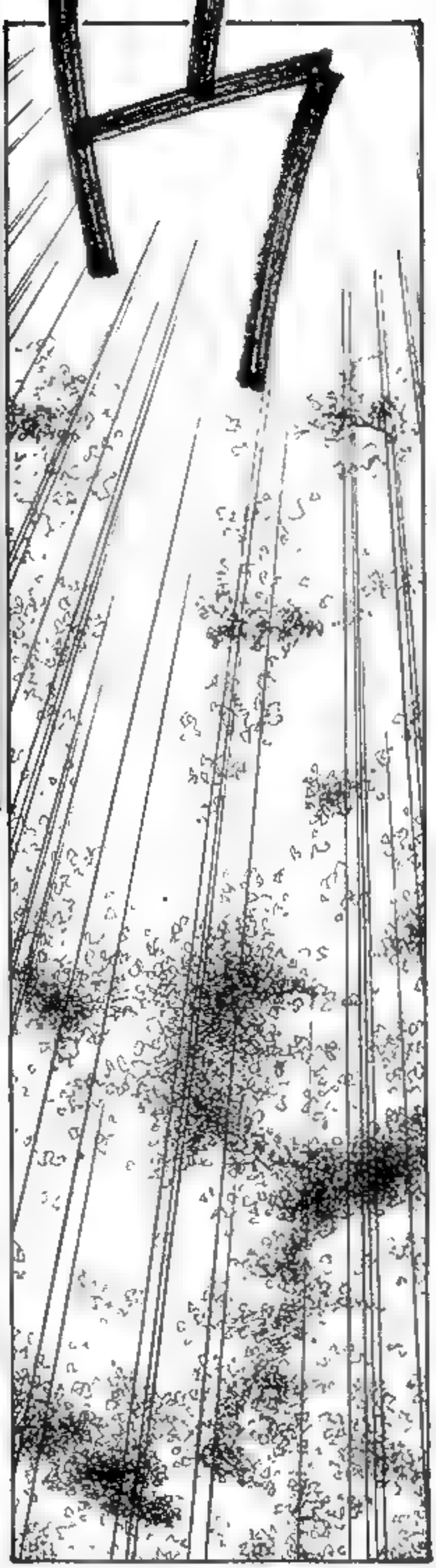
JUST FLY HOW YOU WANT TO!

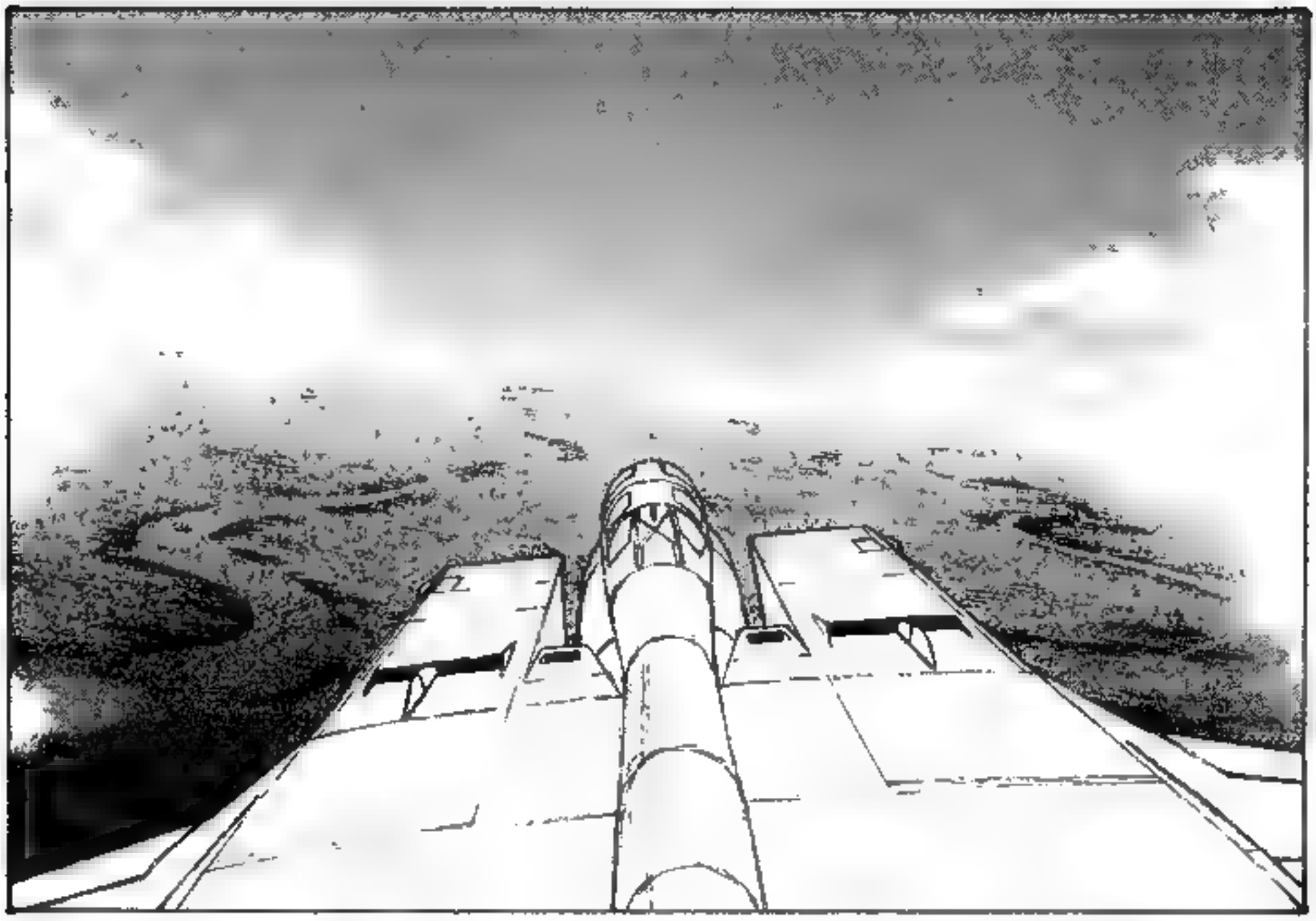
MAYBE WE CAN SHAKE THEM IF WE FLY LOW...

THOSE ARE MIG-31S!

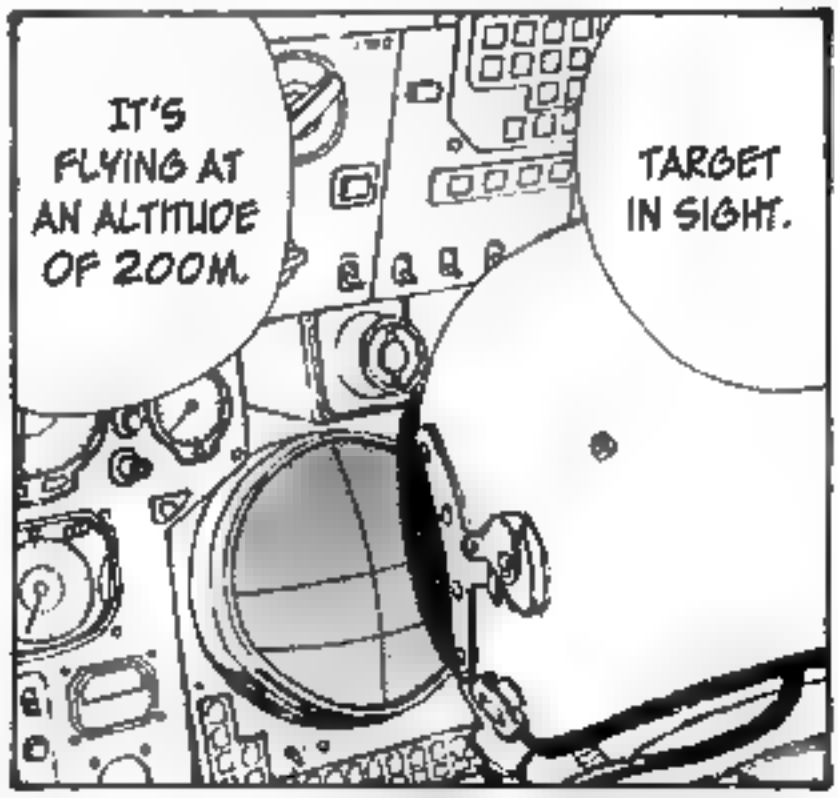
THEIR ELECTRONICS ARE BETTER THAN MINE.

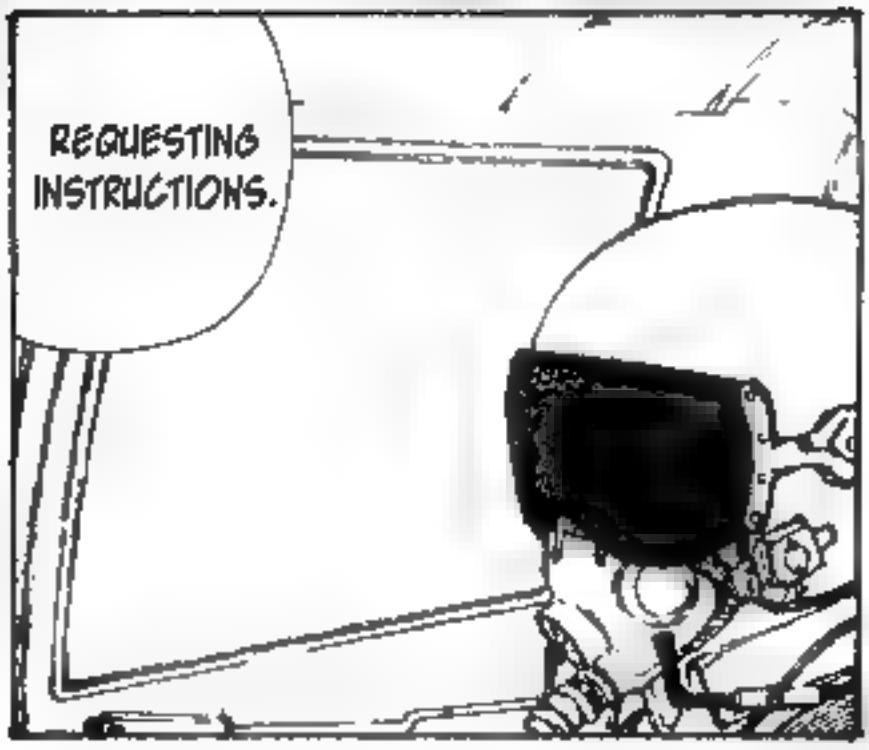
THEY'RE JAMMING MY RADIO.





I NEED A LINE TO COMMANDER RACHMANIN!
DON'T LET THEM OUT OF SIGHT!
CONTINUE THE PURSUIT.


IT'S FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 200M.
TARGET IN SIGHT.


REQUESTING INSTRUCTIONS.

DAMN JAPONSKIS!

WARNING SHOTS WITH THE CANNONS. IF THEY HIT, NO MATTER.

WHAT DO WE DO?

THESE IDIOTS!

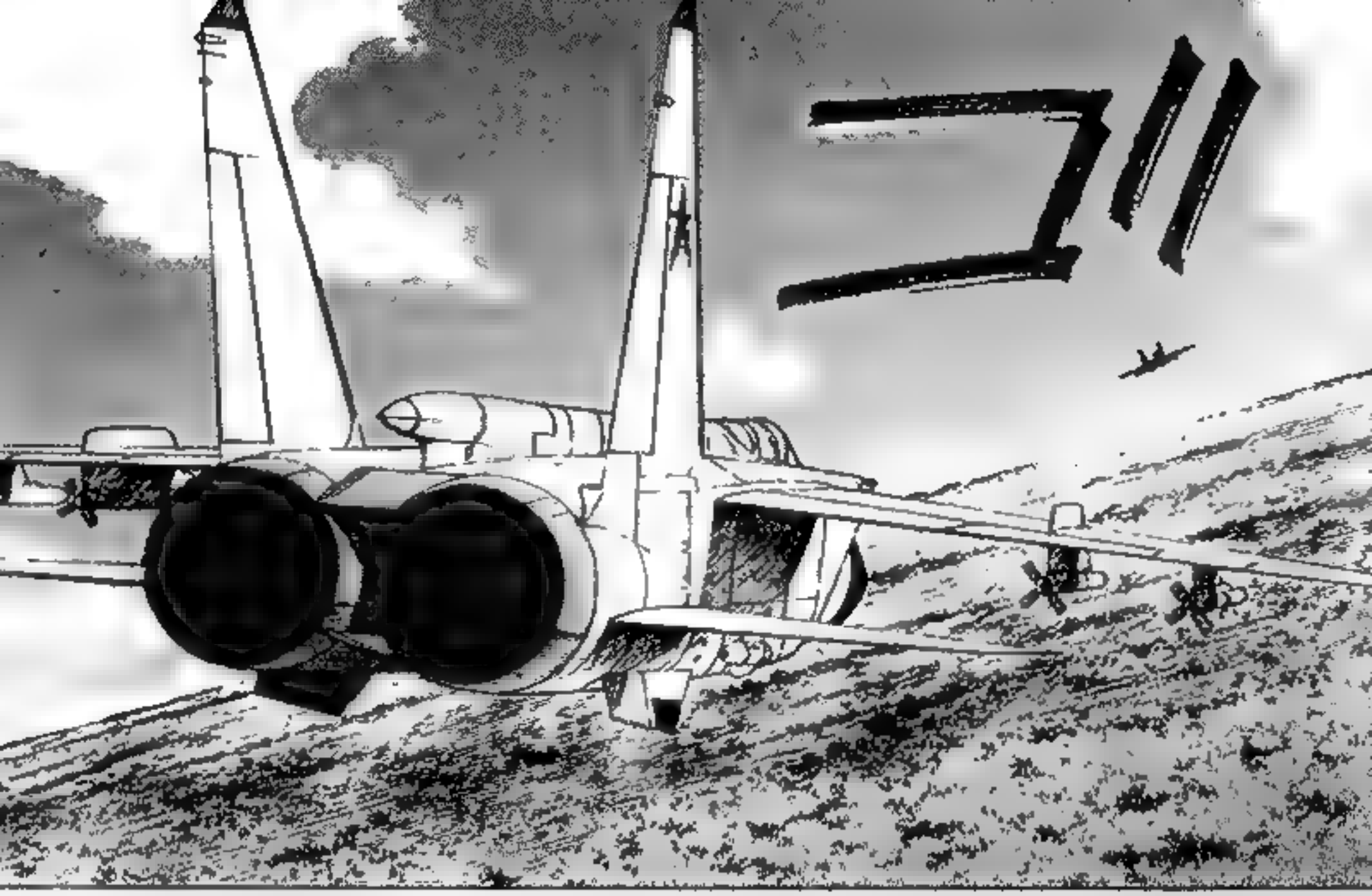
FOR THEM TO REALLY RESIST!

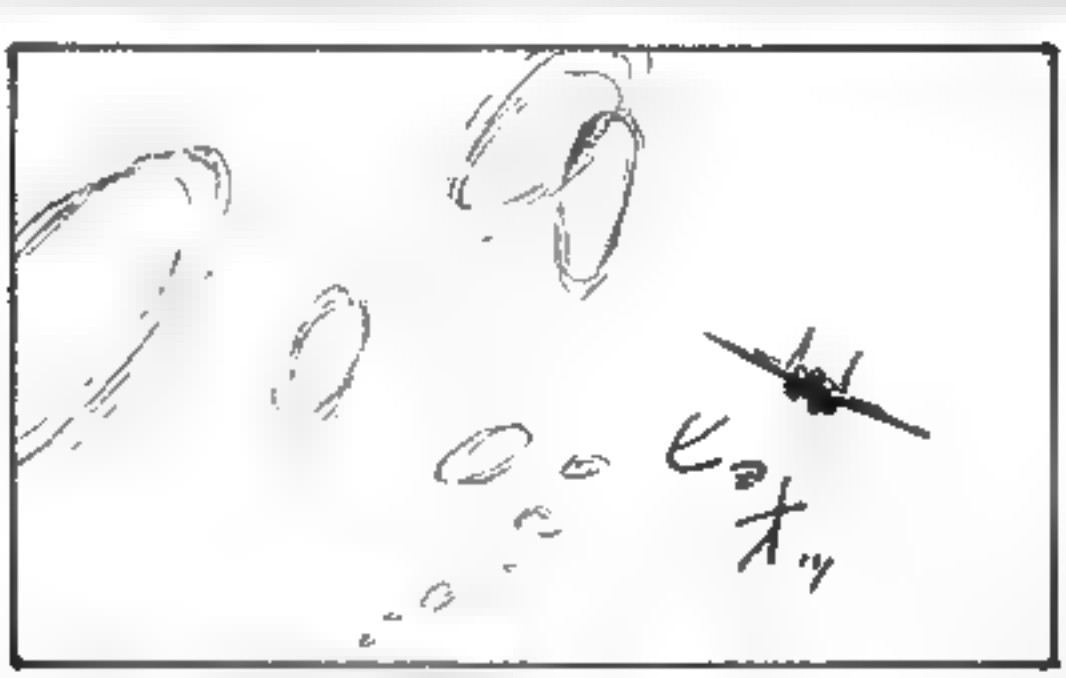
DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S JUST THAT THEY'VE DISAPPEARED WITH THEIR MACHINE!

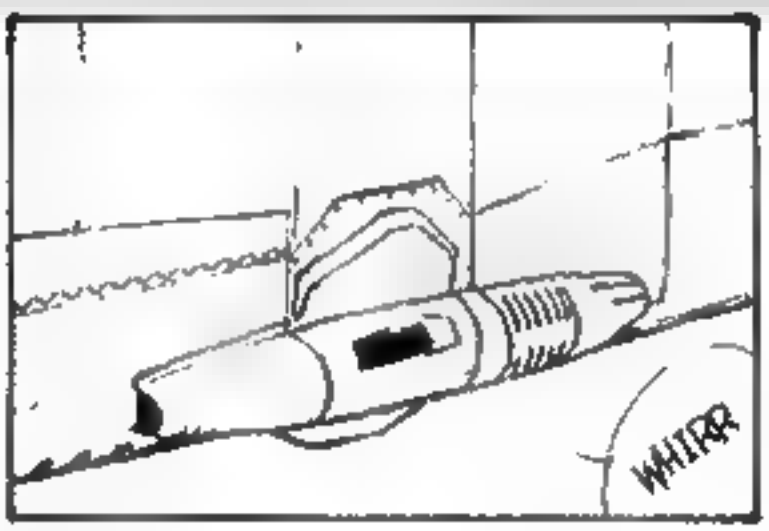
THEN WE WILL FIND SOME EXPLANATION.

AND IF THEY DIE?

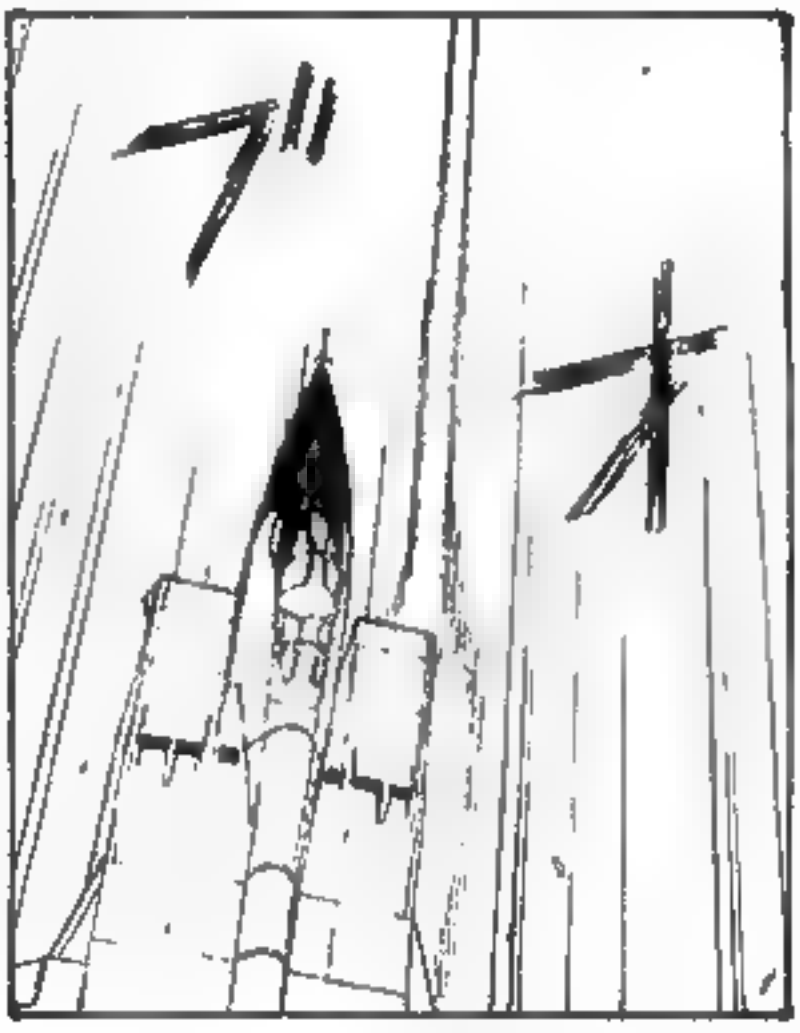
THIS IS OUR TERRITORY HERE!

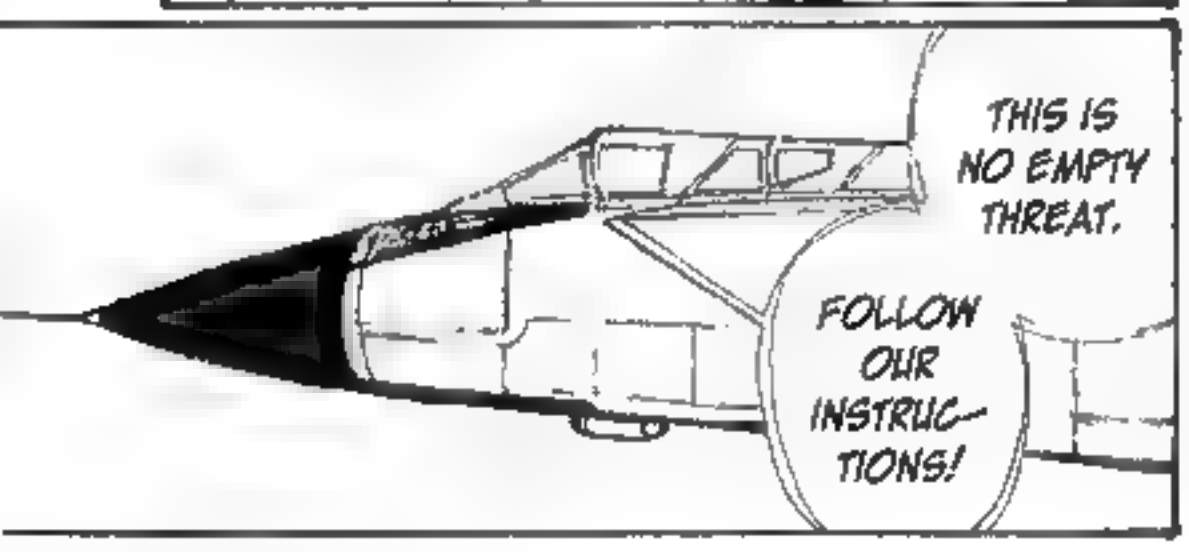


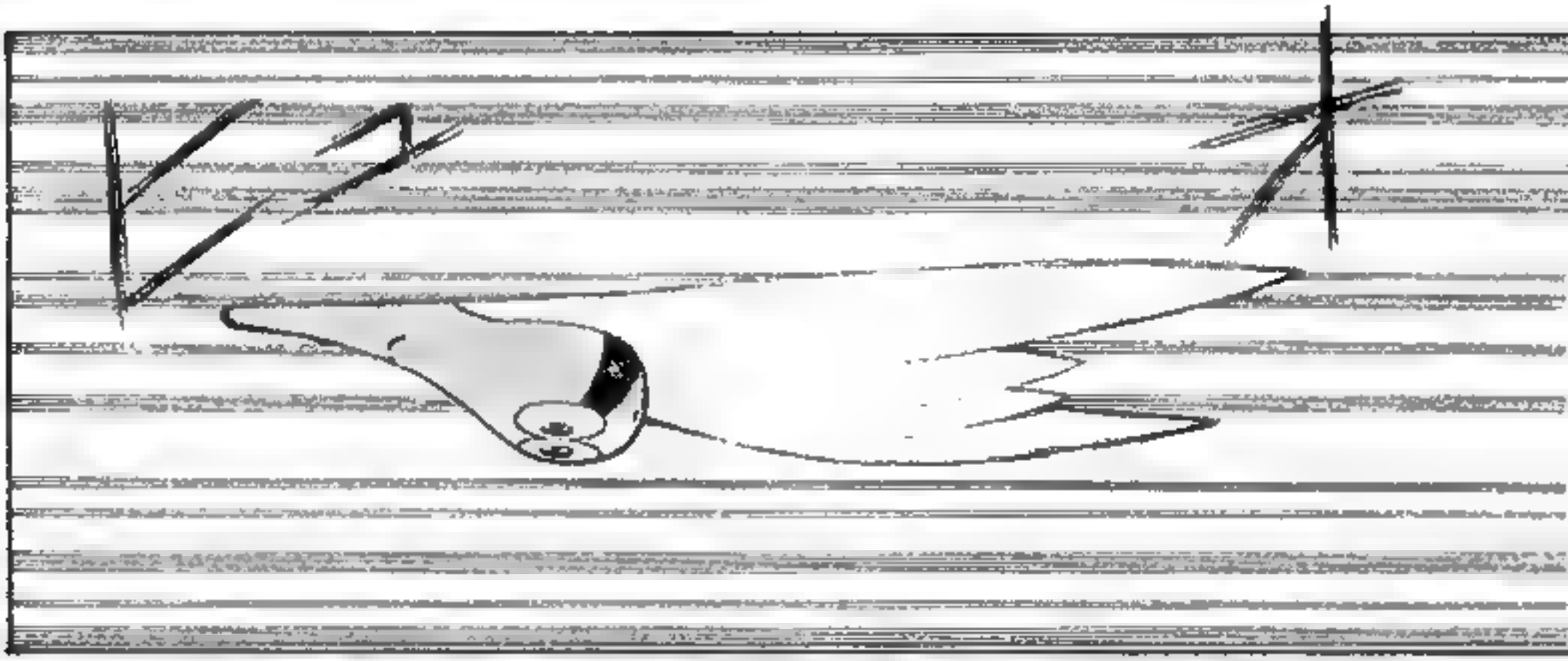


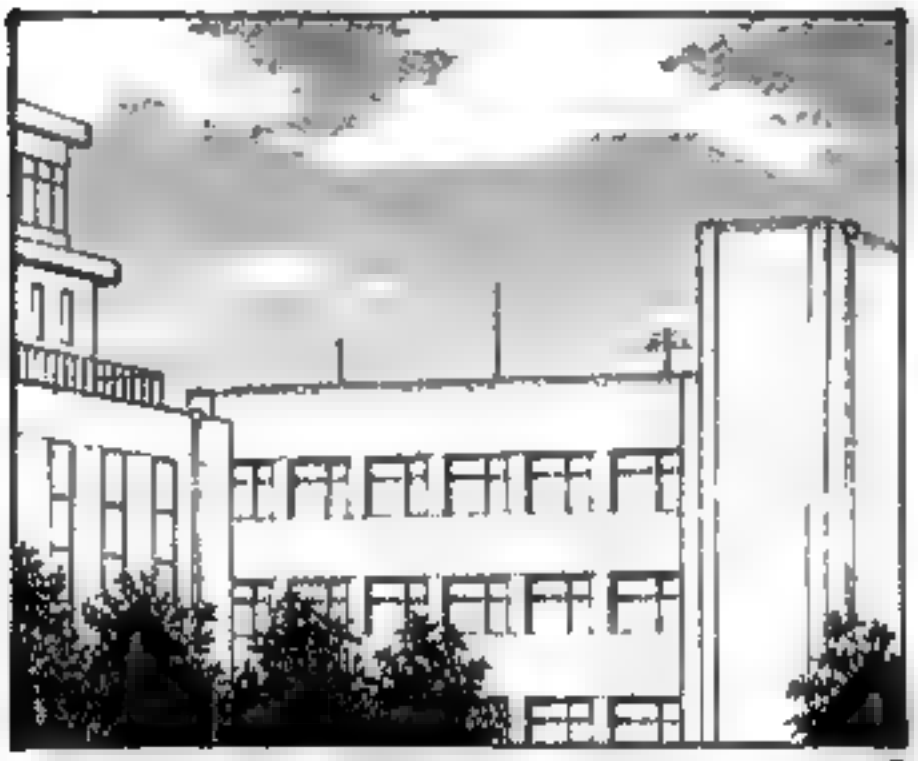

WHIRR

AM
THEY'RE REALLY SHOOTING!



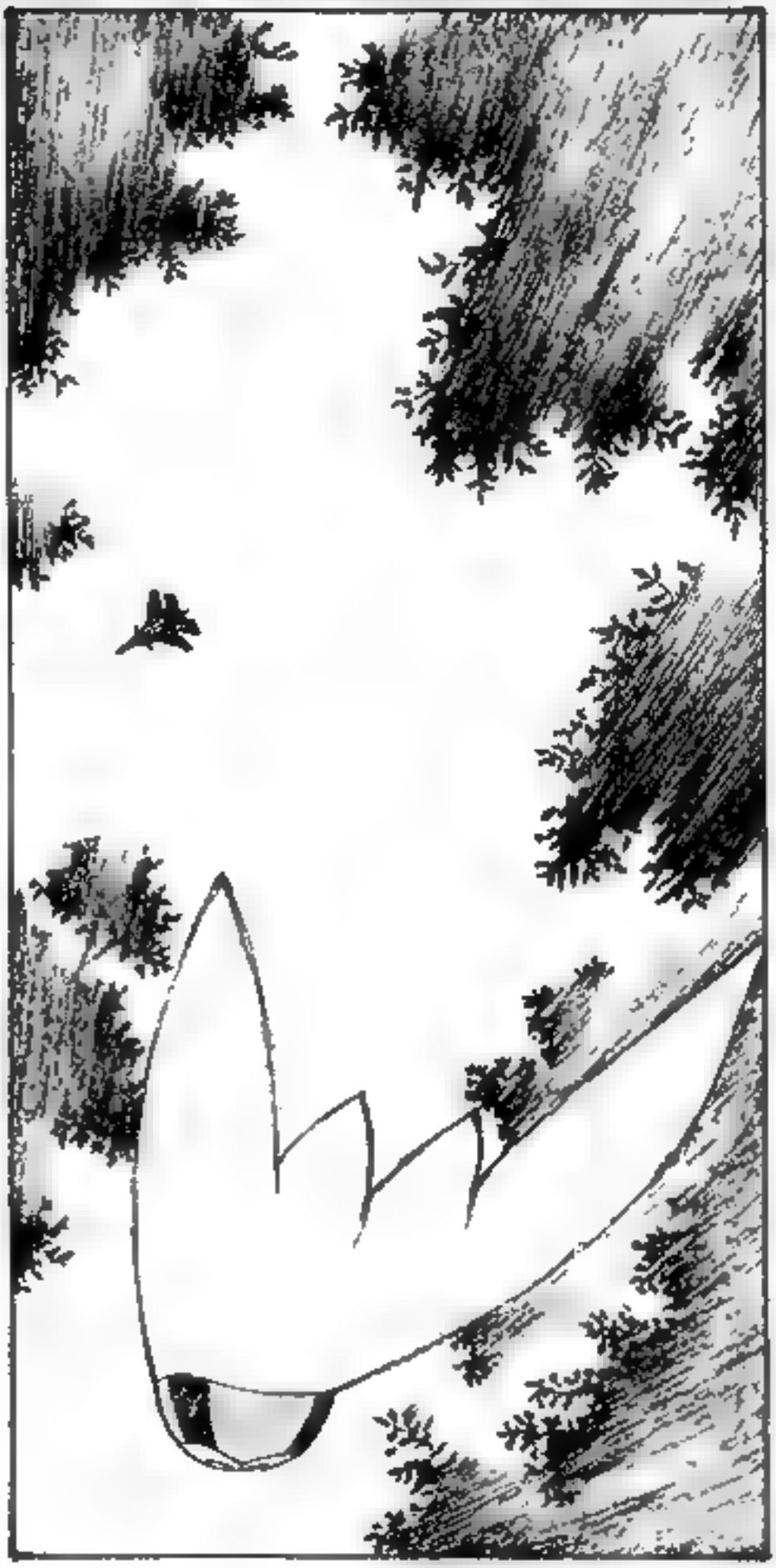

THIS IS NO EMPTY THREAT.
FOLLOW OUR INSTRUC-TIONS!





ALREADY IN THE AIR AND STANDING BY.
WHAT ABOUT THE HELICOPTER SQUADRON?

GOOD.



WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?!

MIHARA?!

THAT'S THEIR EASIEST WAY OUT OF THIS AFFAIR!

THEY WANT YOUR CRAFT TO DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.

BUT WHY...?!

A SQUADRON OF INTERCEPTORS IS SUPPOSEDLY HUNTING YOU!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

IT'S A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM!

MESSING WITH THE FSB IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY!

DON'T START WITH THAT NONSENSE!

LET ME DO THAT!

LET'S CALL THE EMBASSY.

...WITH US!

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A TEA...

I'M ON DUTY!

COME, TAKE A BREAK!

I'LL TELL YOU THAT OVER THE TEA!

IN WHICH DEPART-MENT?

HE IS?

THE GUYS YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR ARE UP THERE IN THE AIR AFTER ALL!

NO BIG DEAL!

MY YOUNGER BROTHER IS ALSO IN THE FSB.

PICK UP ALREADY!

ТАКСОФОН

FIND OUT!

LET HIM HANG ON THE RINGING TONE.
WHERE EXACTLY IS HE CALLING FROM?

SOMEBODY'S CALLING FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY!

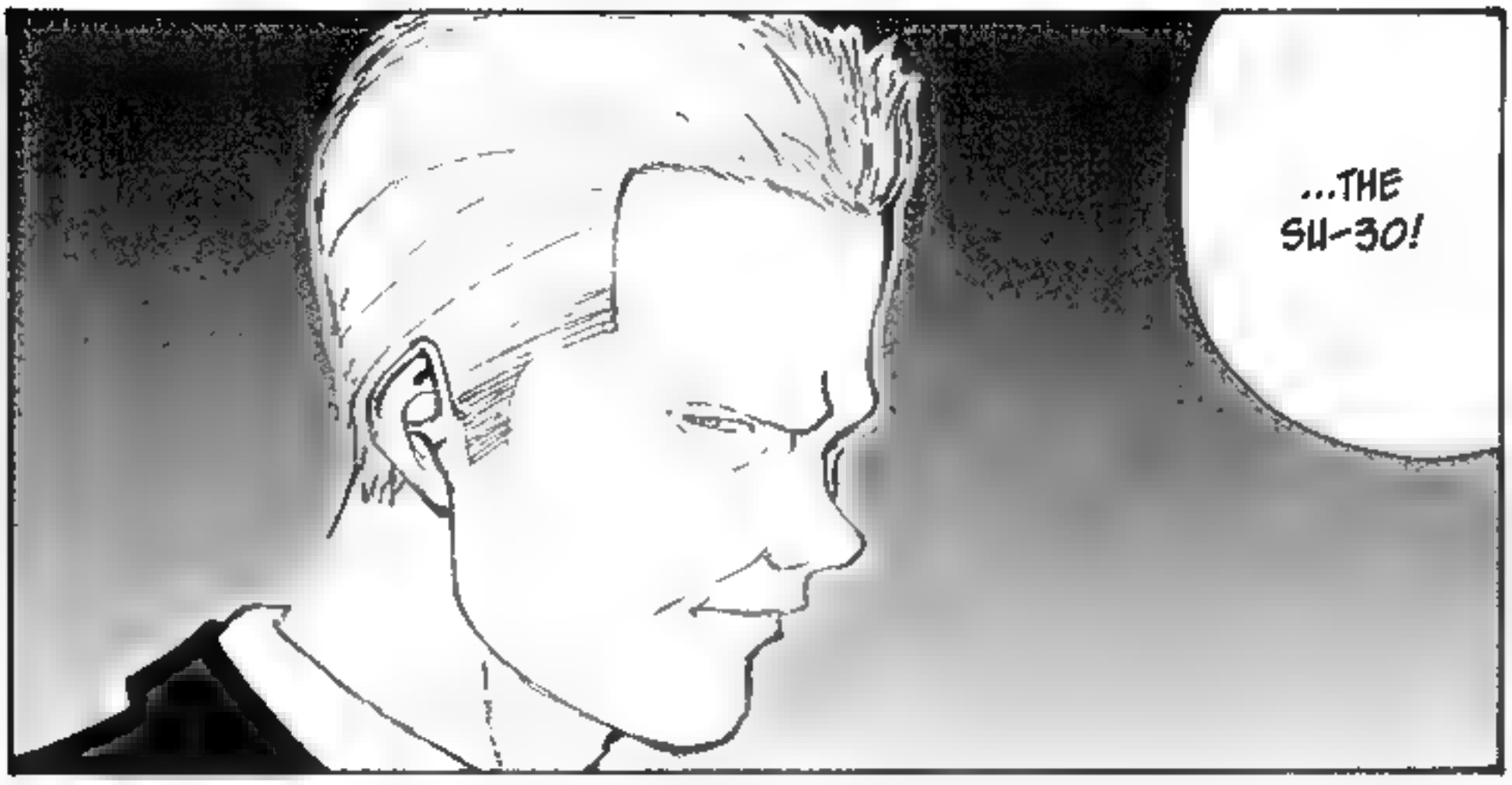
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!

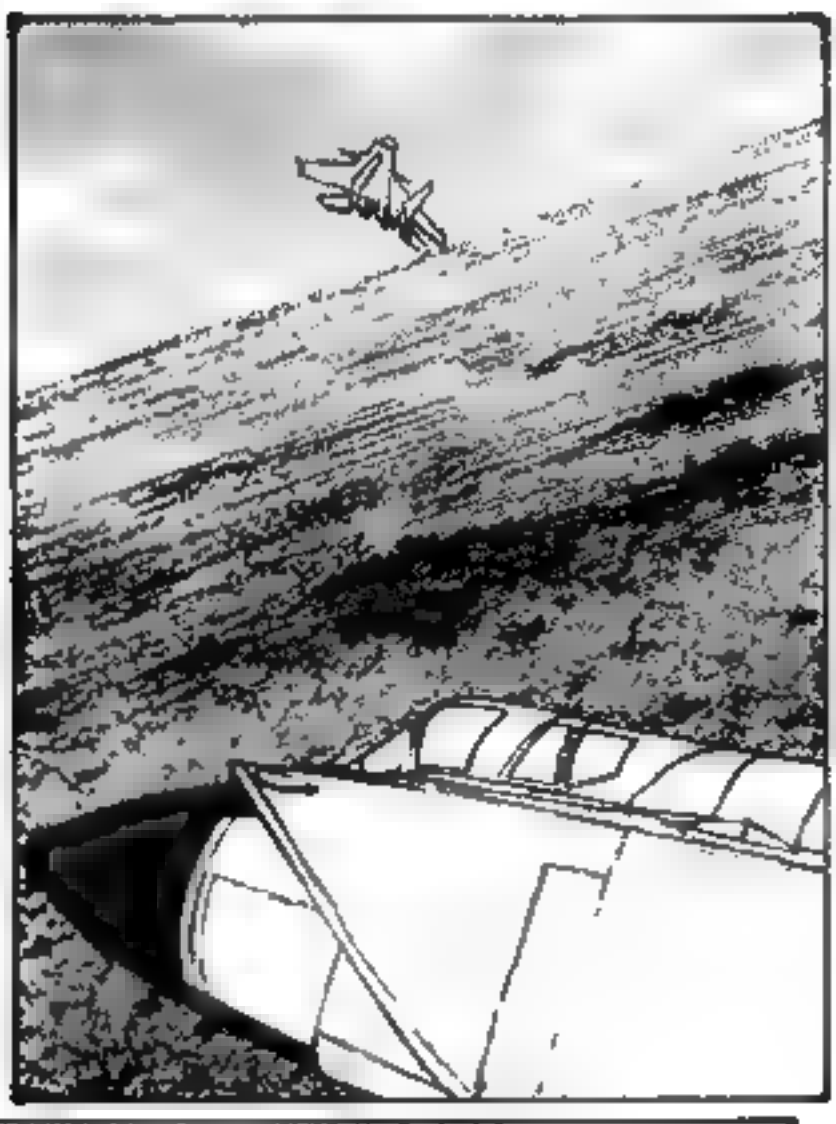
AH...

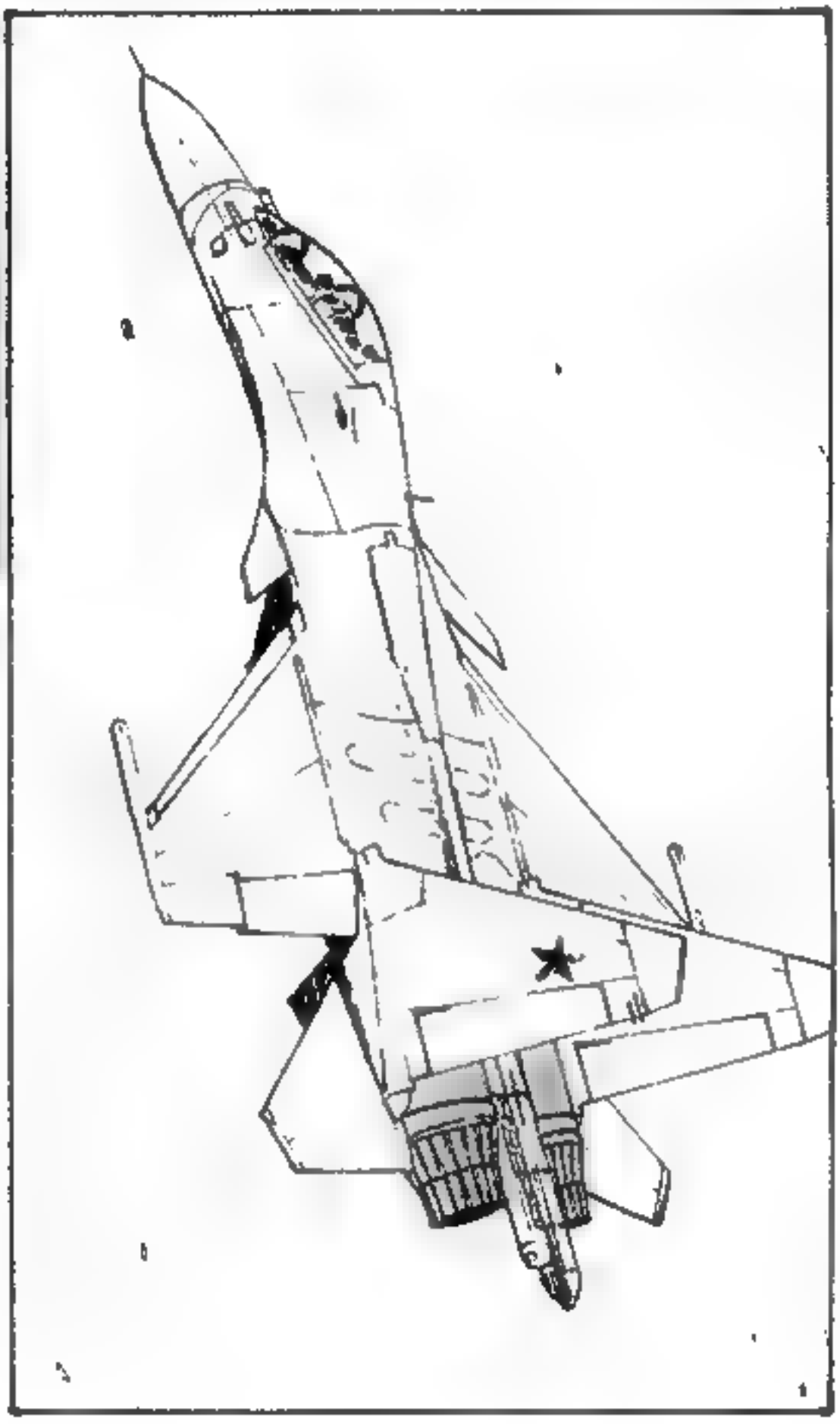
SHIROU MIHARA?

SO IT IS HIM.

SHOOT DOWN...

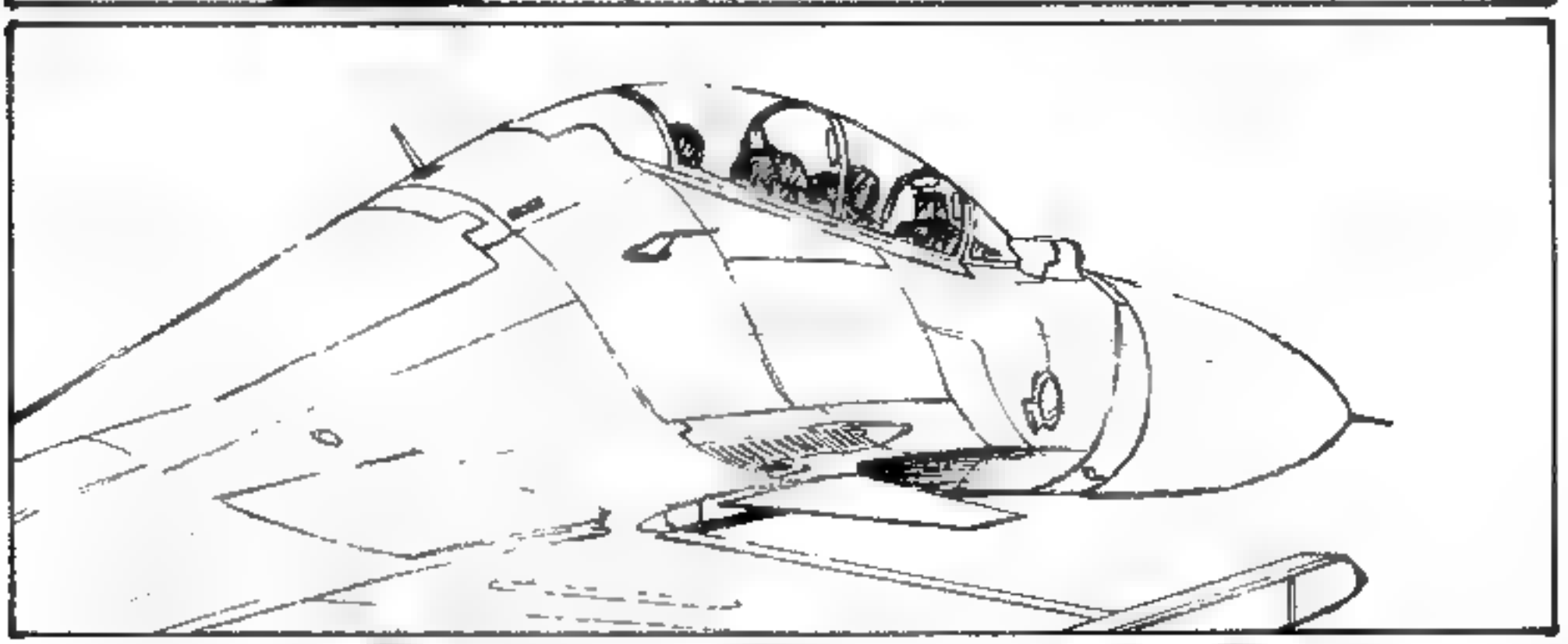

...THE SU-30!





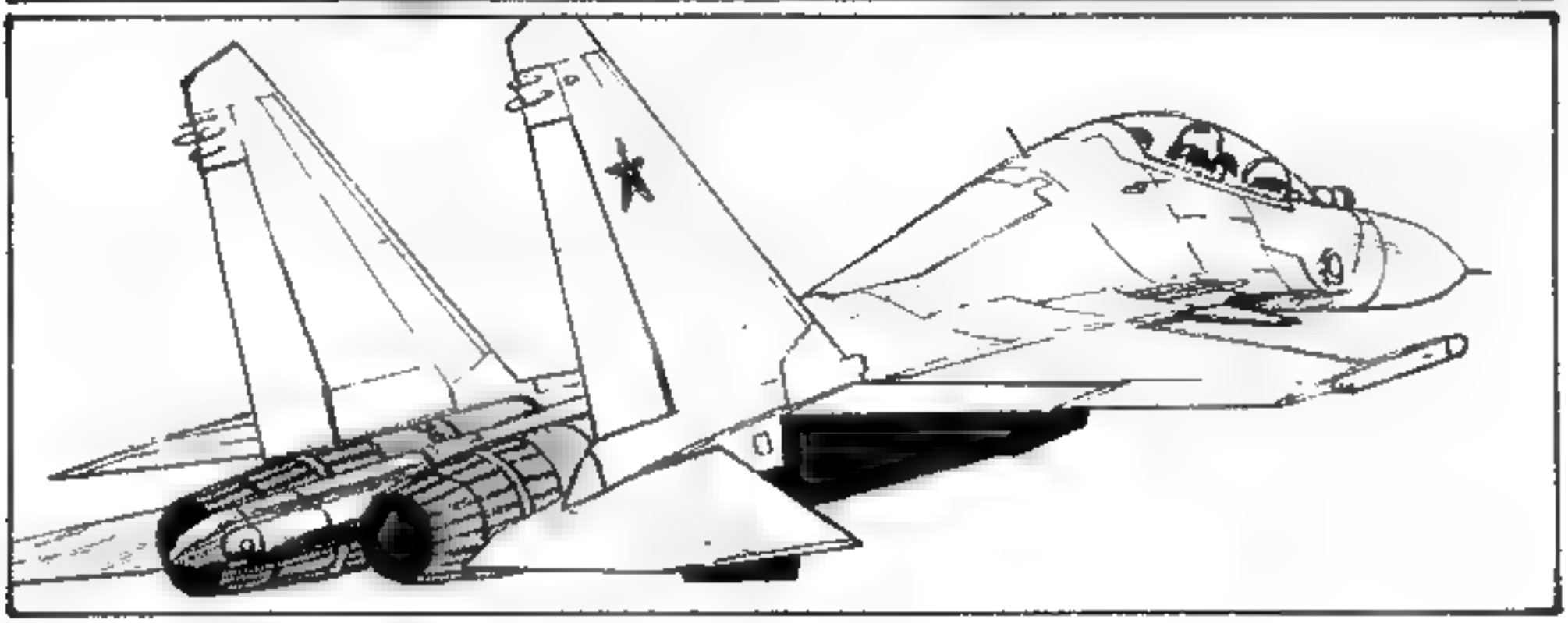
...WE DON'T NEED THEM ANY MORE!

WHOEVER IT MAY BE UP THERE...



... OUR "CRASHED" PILOTS!

WE'VE ALREADY GOT...



F!!

=/=

RADAR-GUIDED?!

BE QUIET BACK THERE!

WHAT IS IT NOW?

MAI

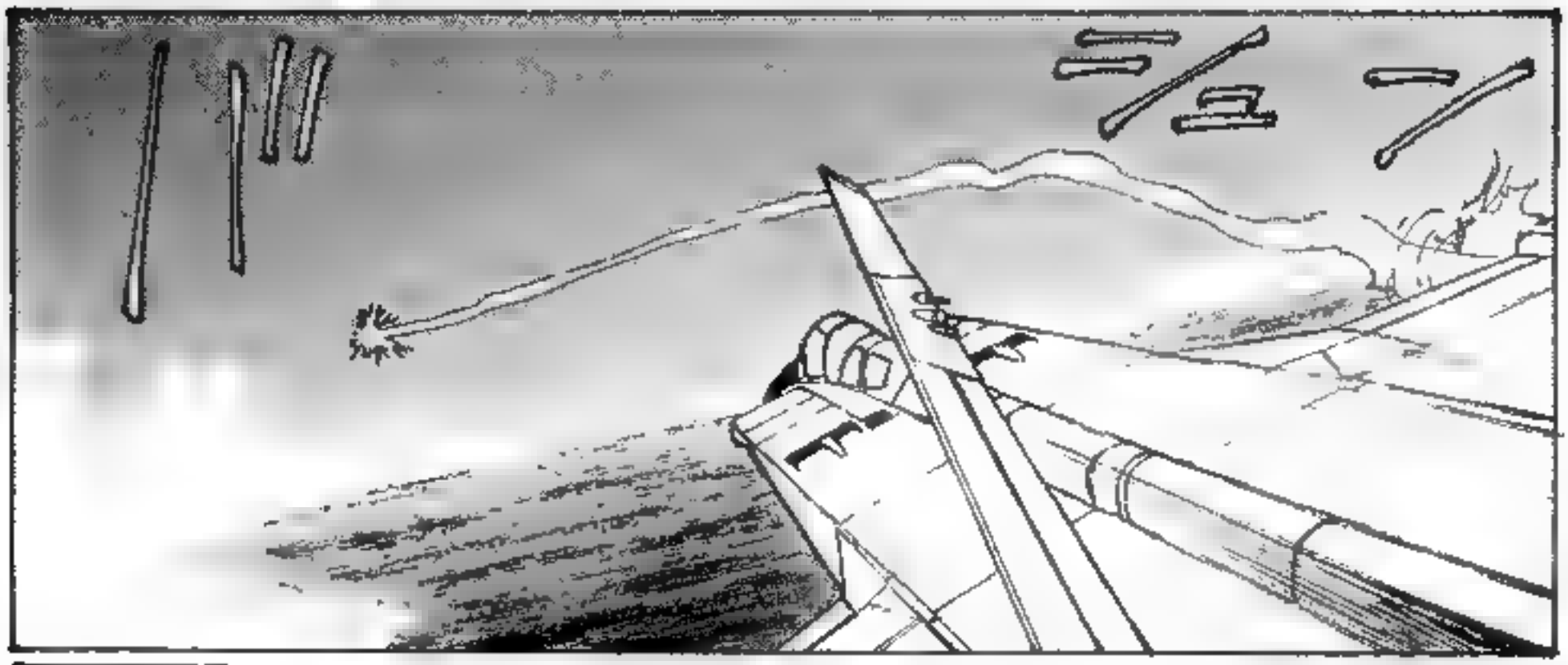
MISSILES!!

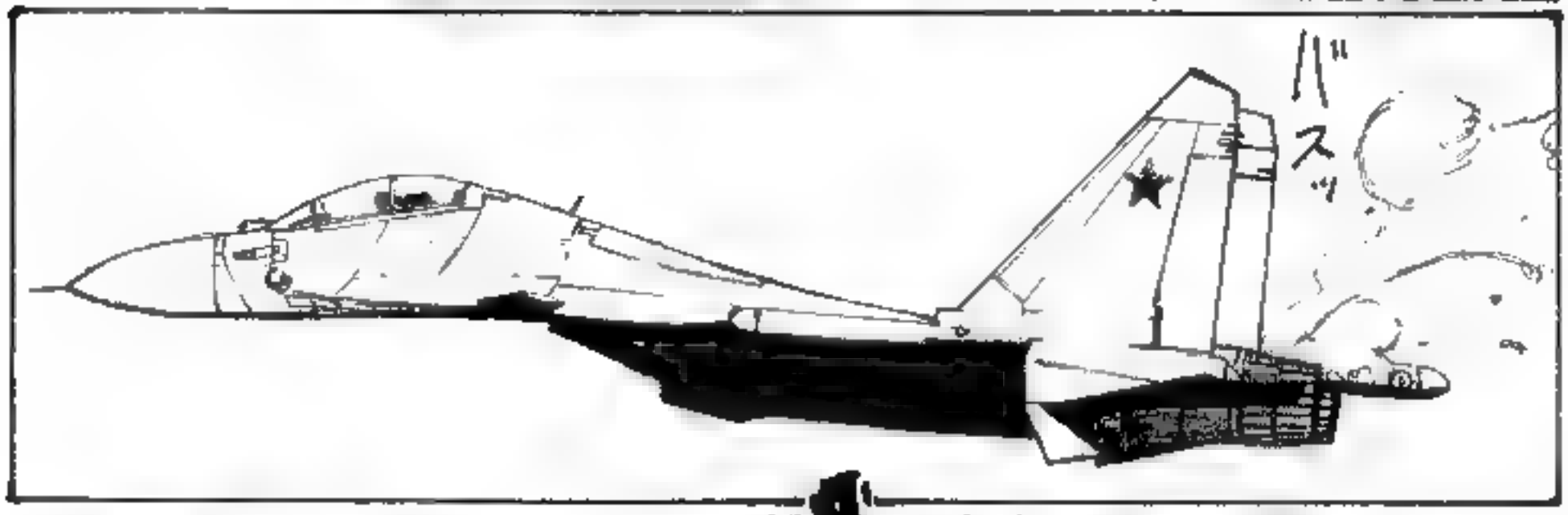
E°!

MAI

THEY'RE SERIOUS!

PSHH
PSHH

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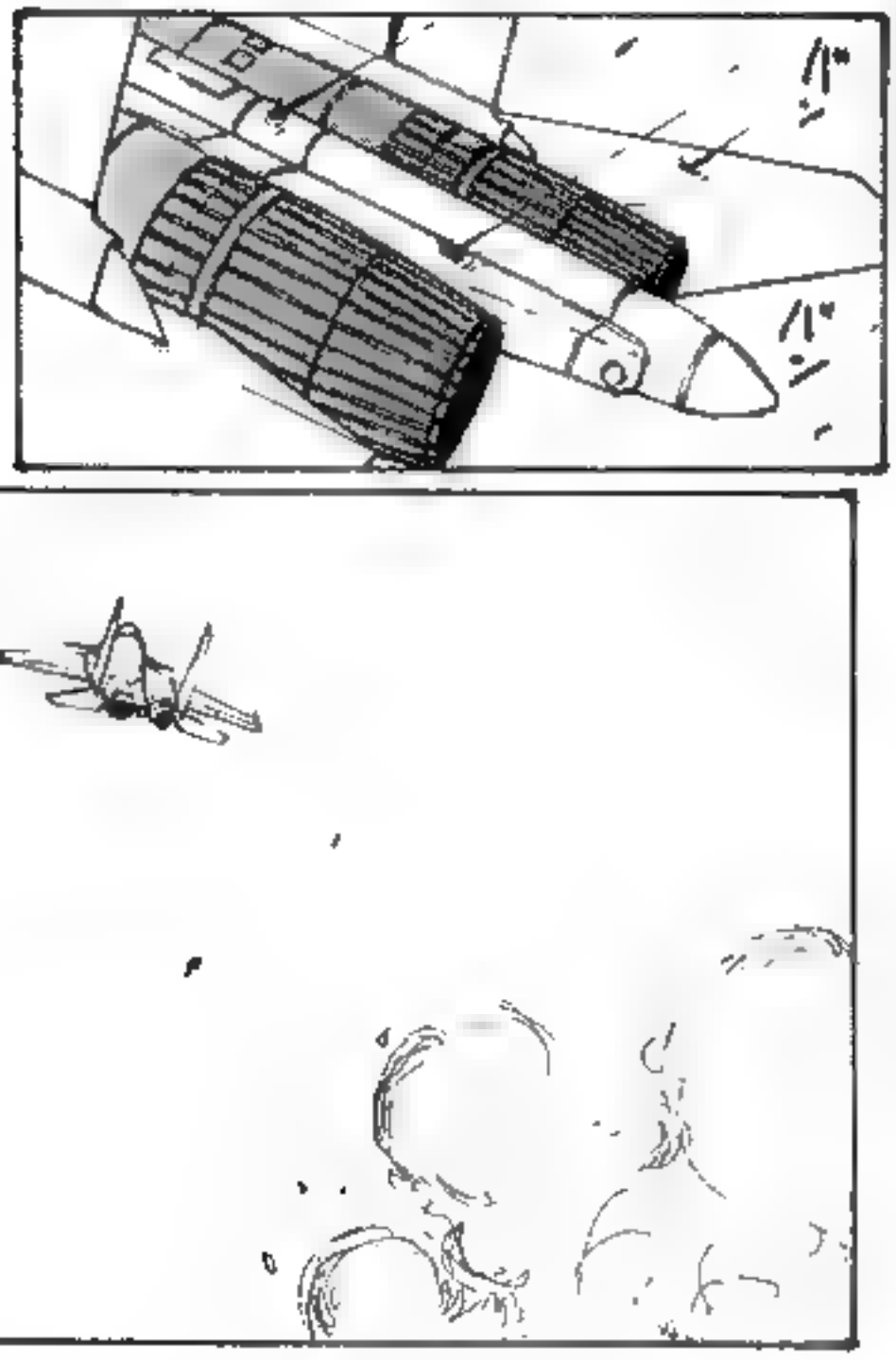
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WE WANT TO GET BACK ALIVE!

I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THEIR ORDERS NOW.

YES, YES!

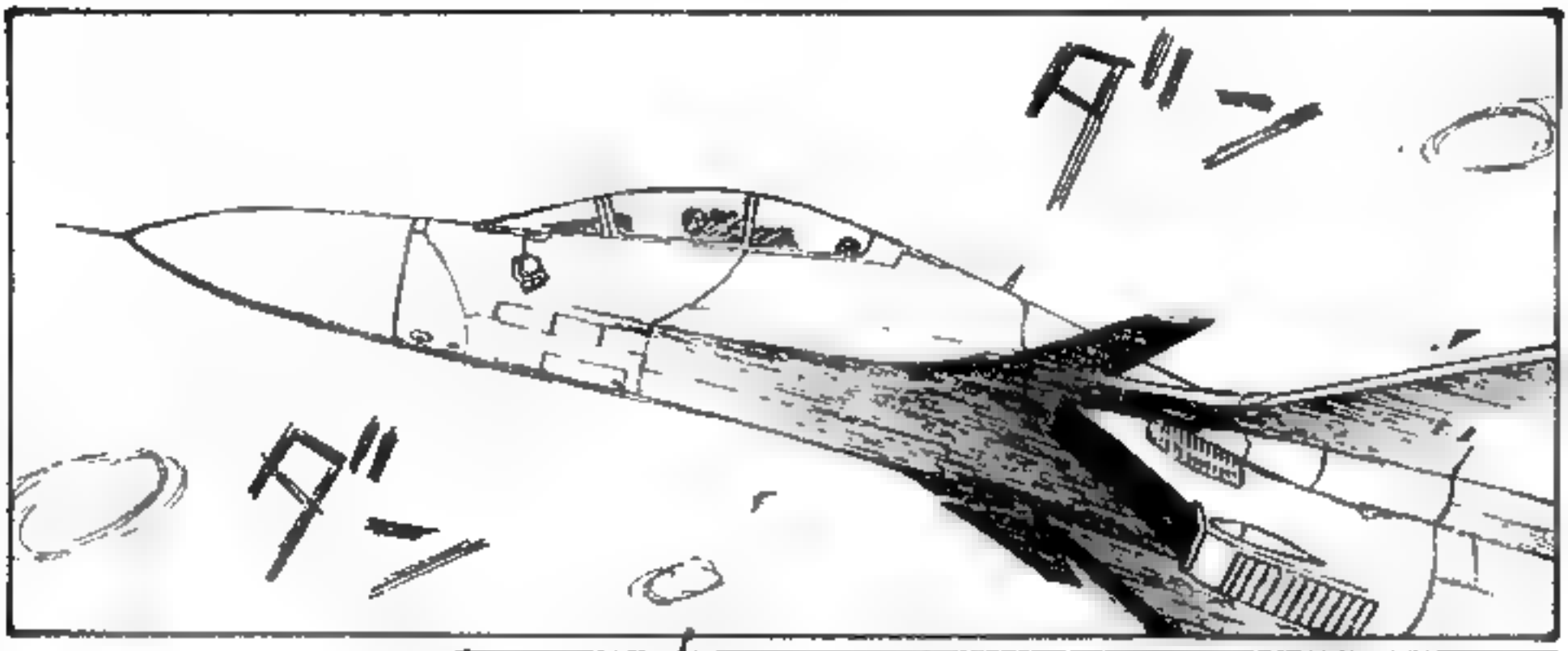
EVERYTHING OK, MOTHER?!

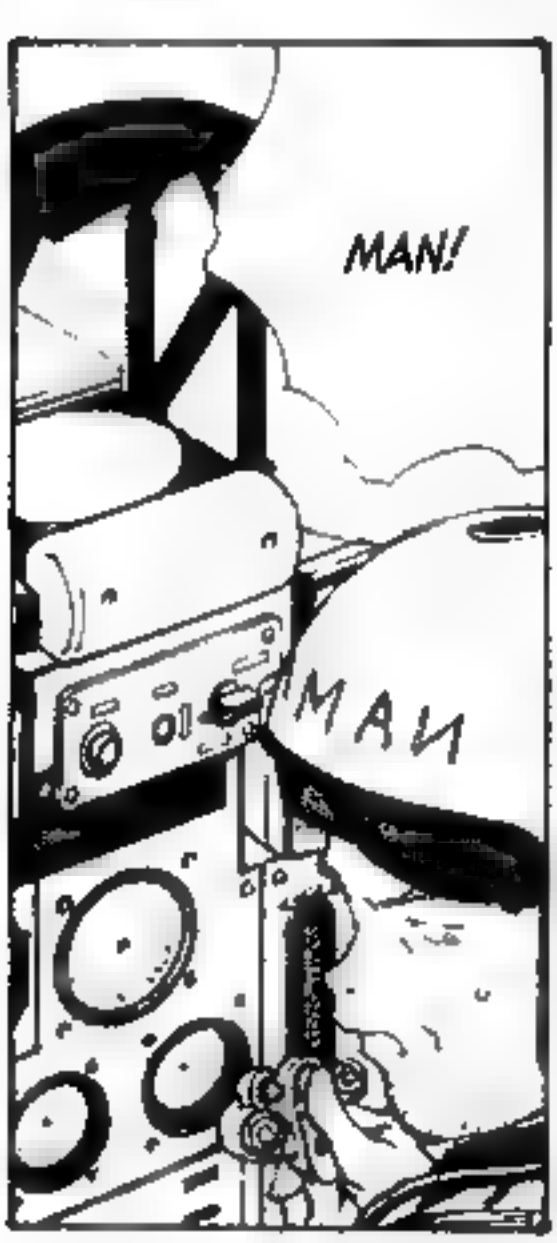
DON'T ATTACK!

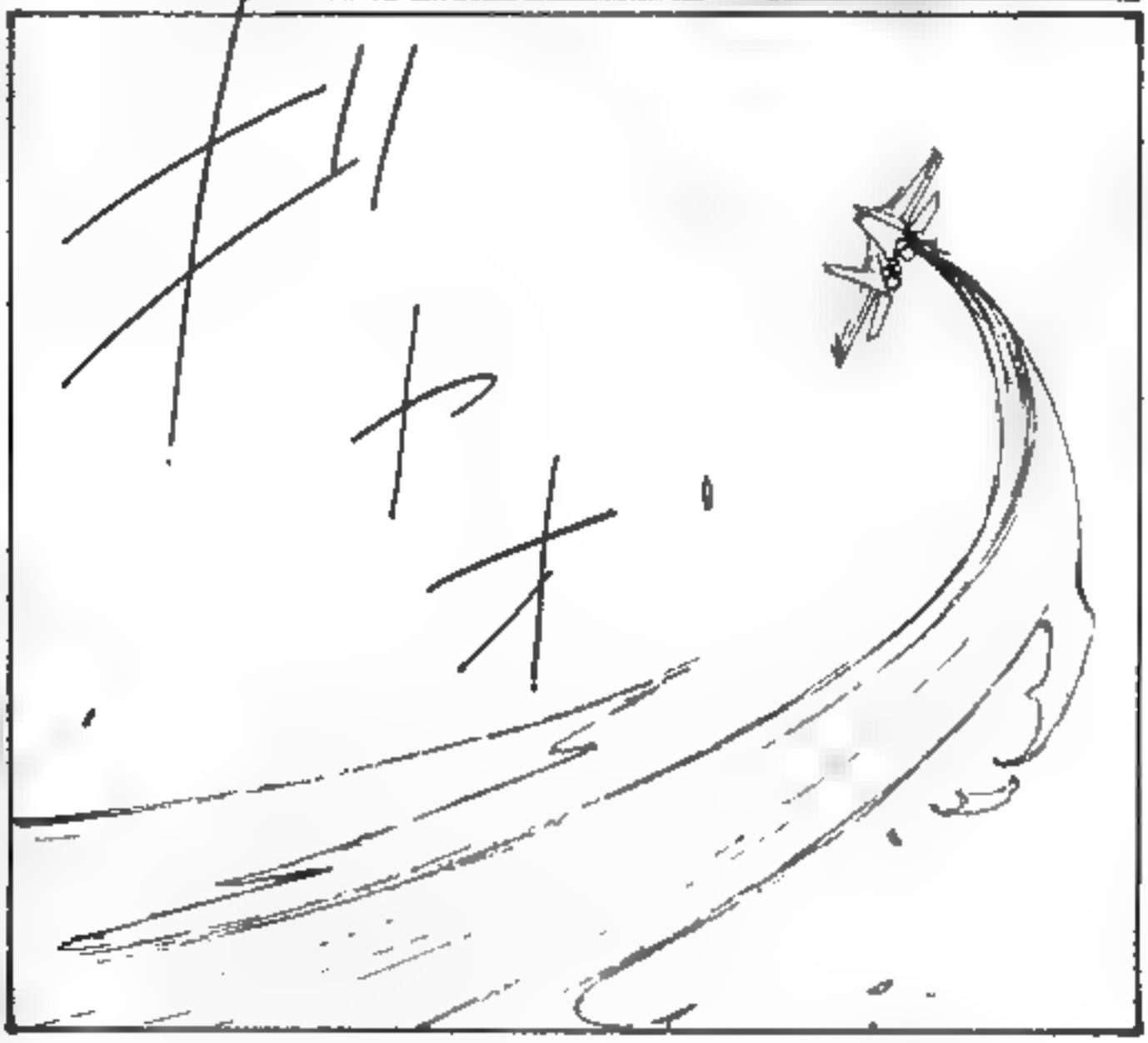
UNDER-STOOD.

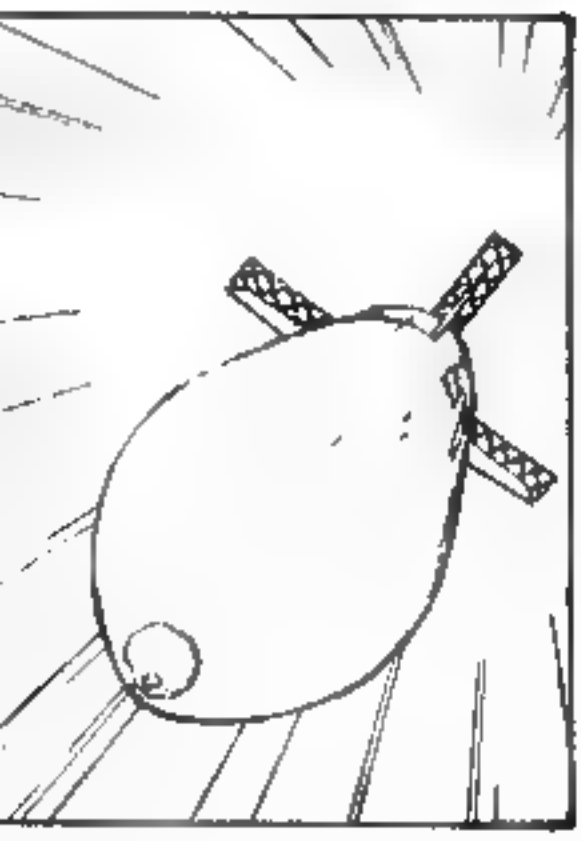
I WILL OBEY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.

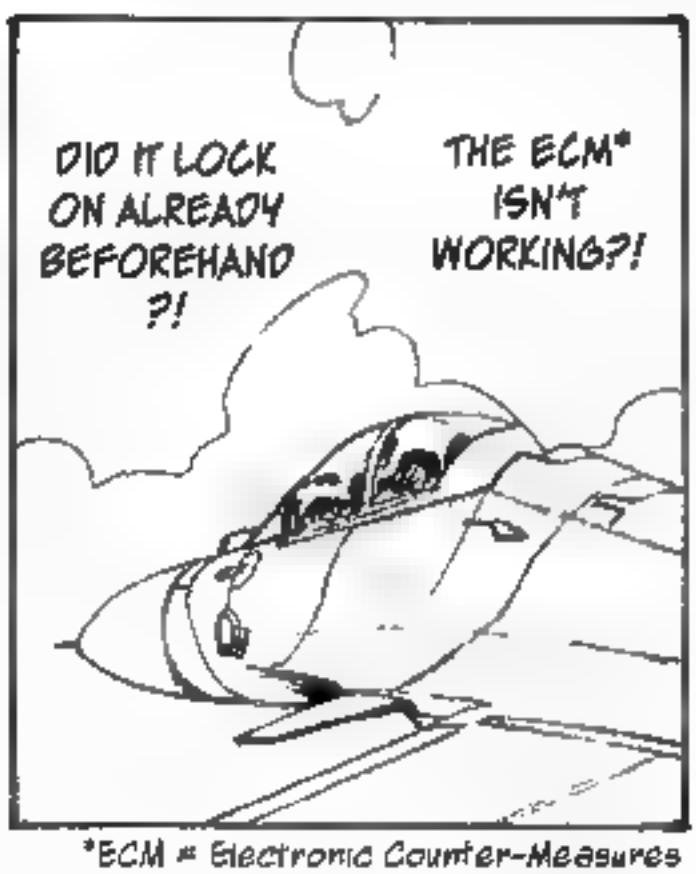
HA?



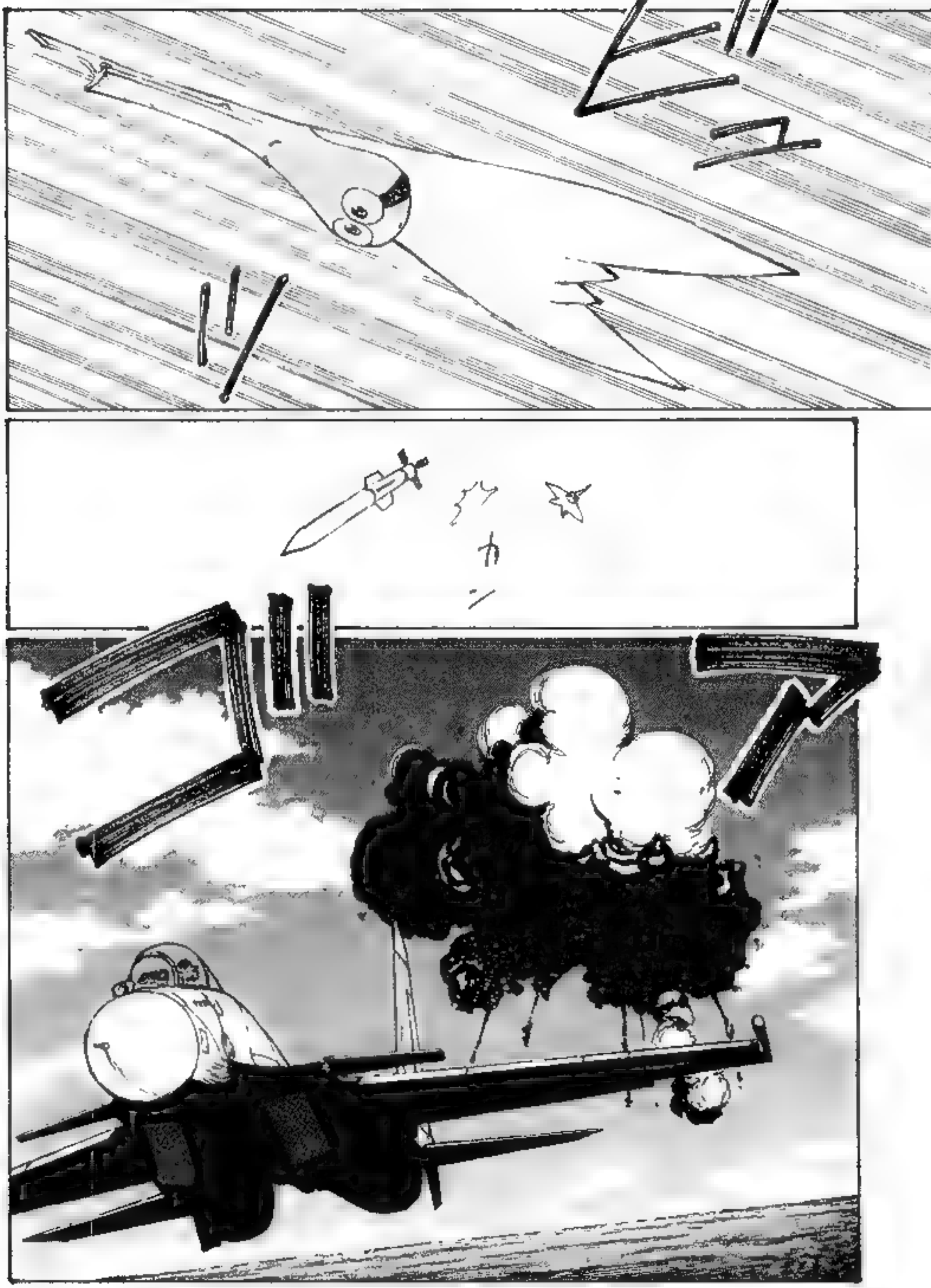


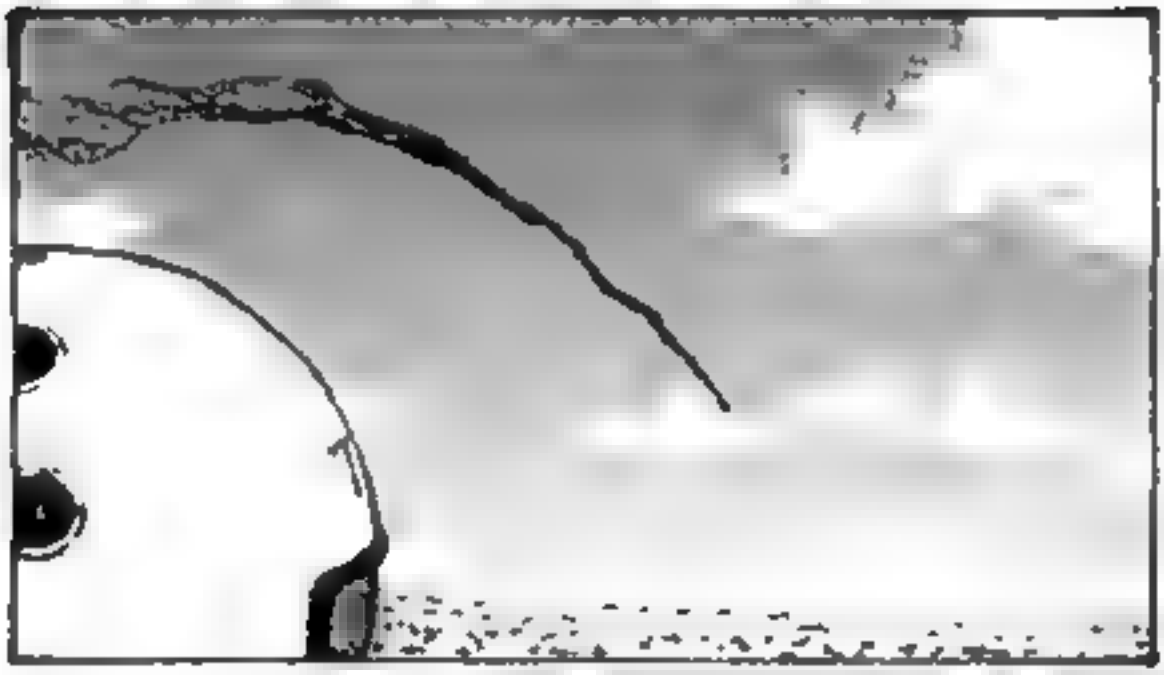




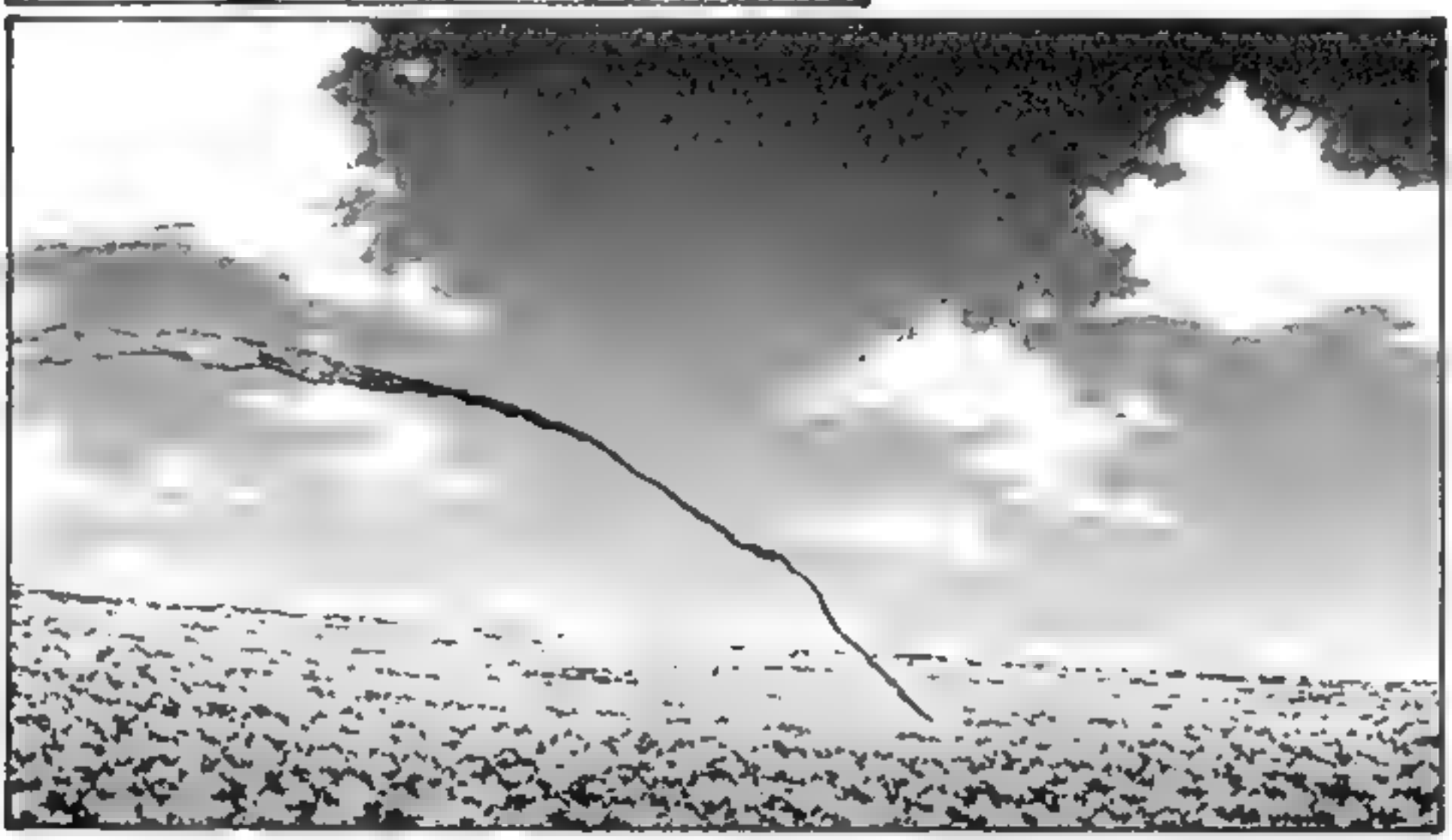


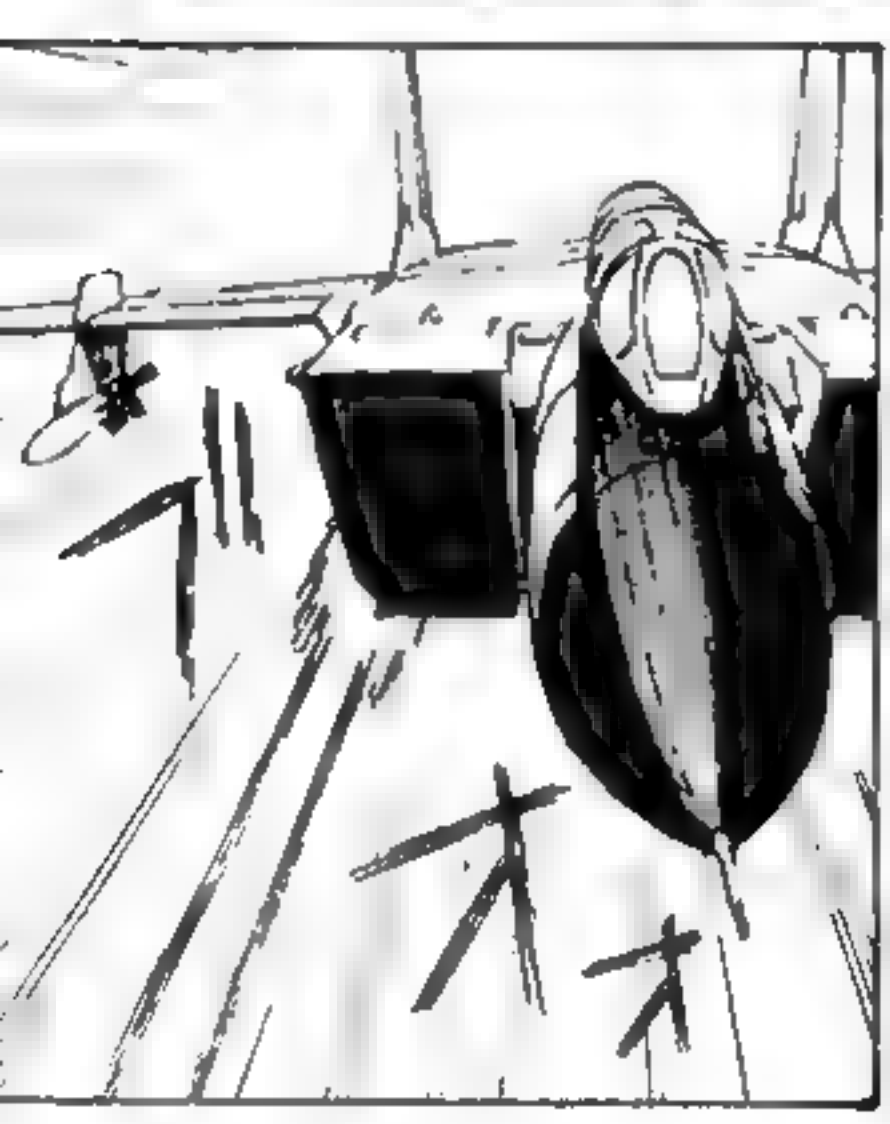
*ECM = Electronic Counter-Measures





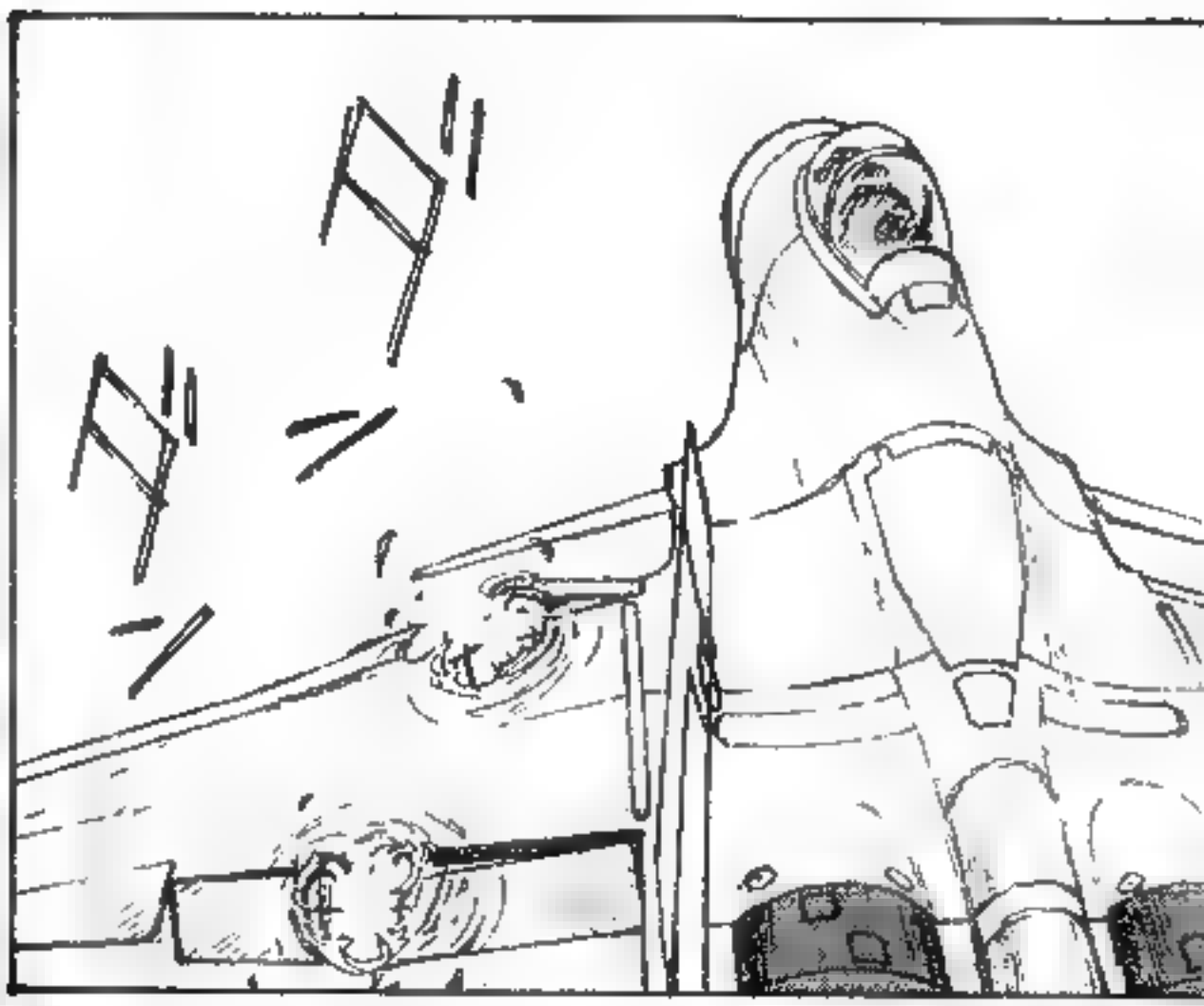
WHAT?!





SHIT!

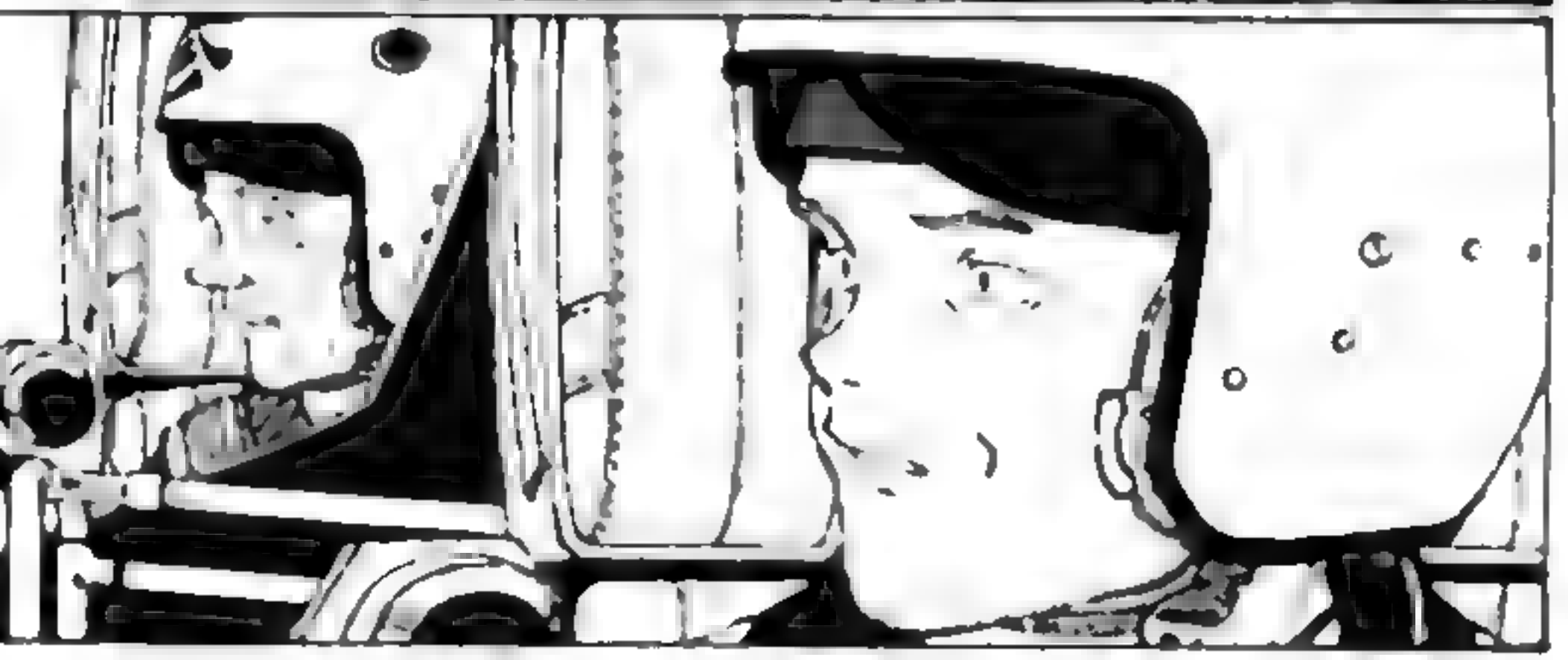
AH...

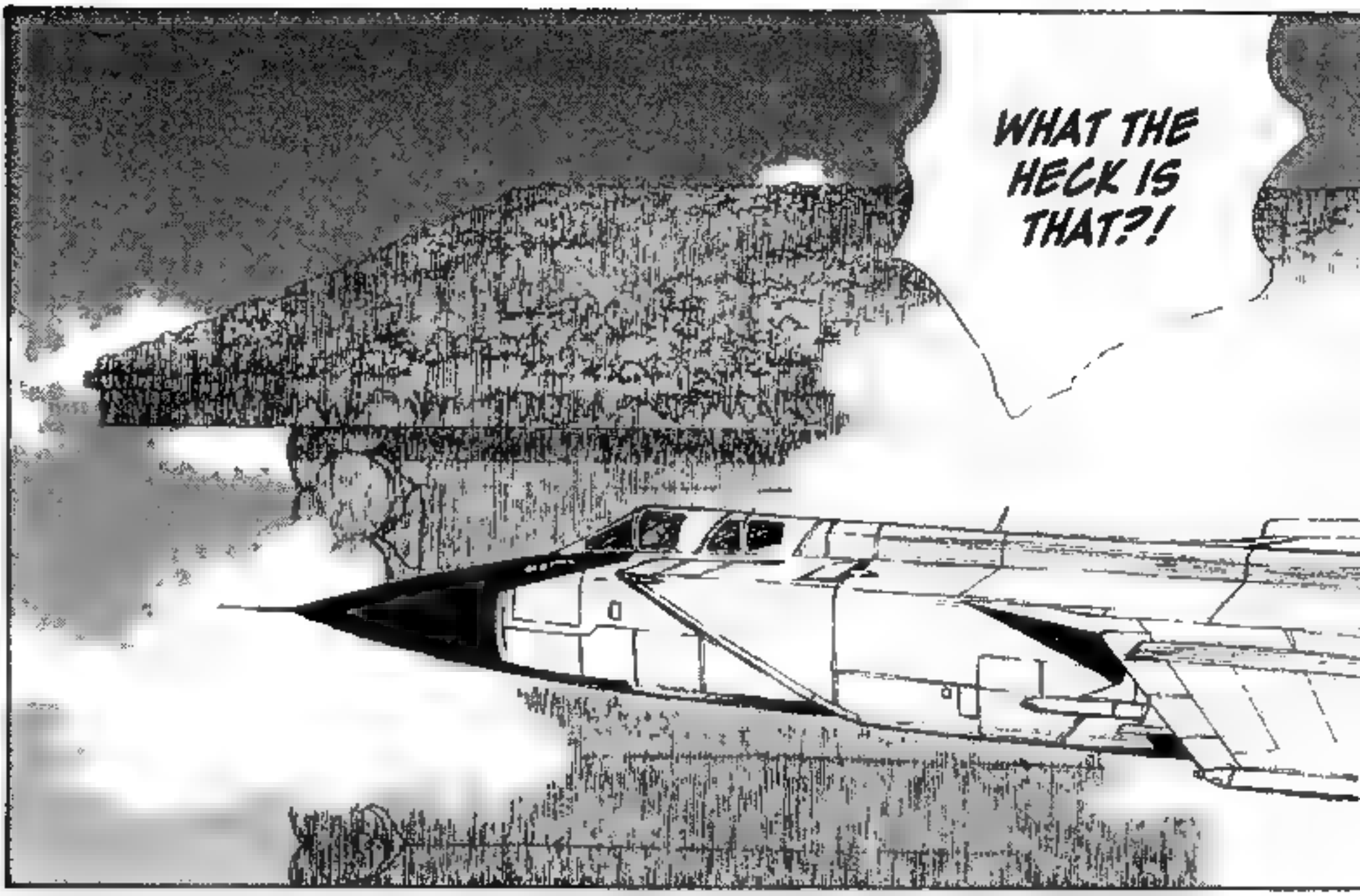


MOTHER!
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO WORK THE EJECTION SEAT?!

MAMA

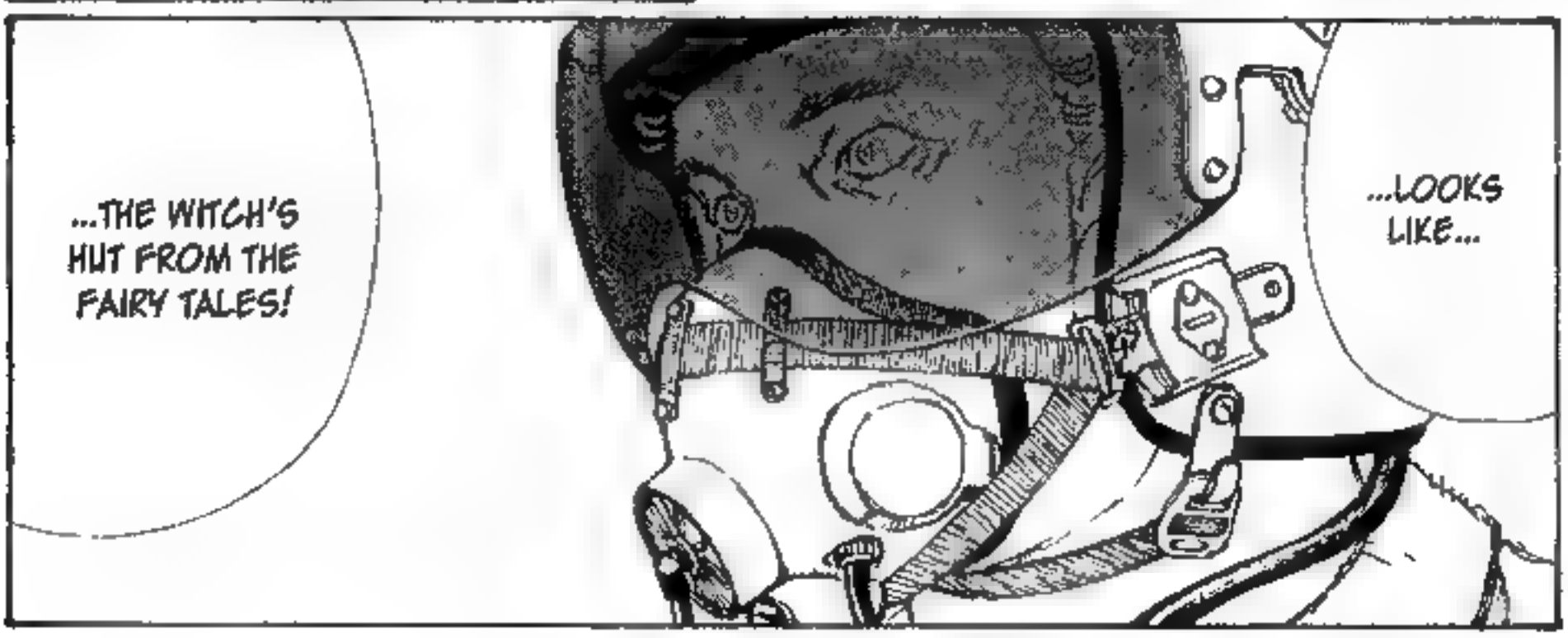
MOTHE...

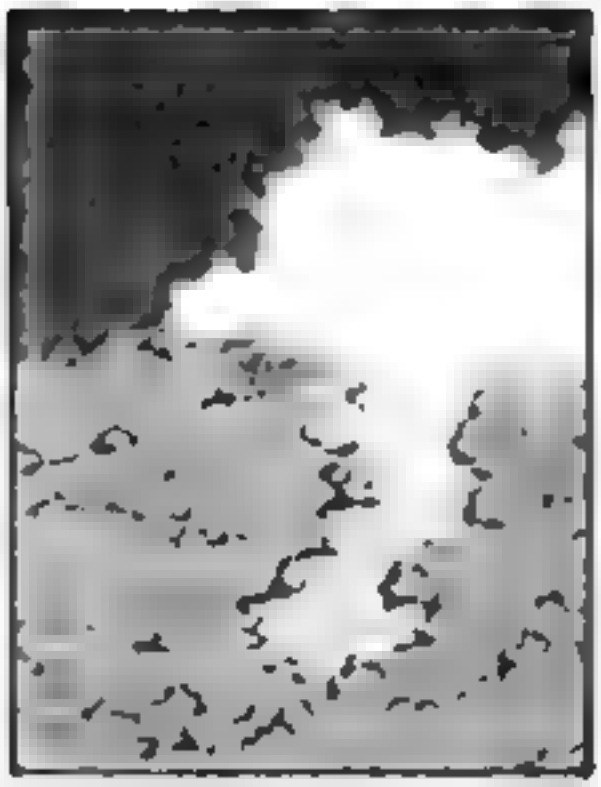



WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!

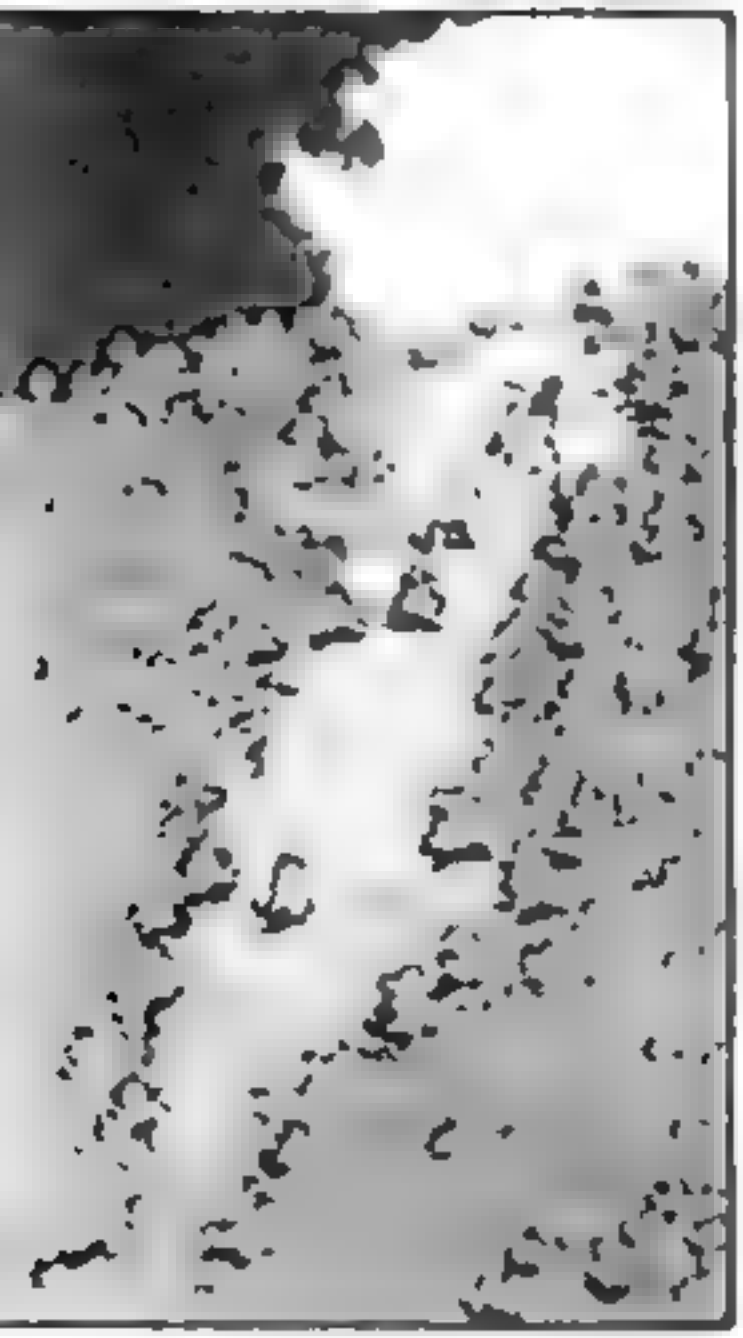
THE THING...
IT'S COVERED WITH FOREST...

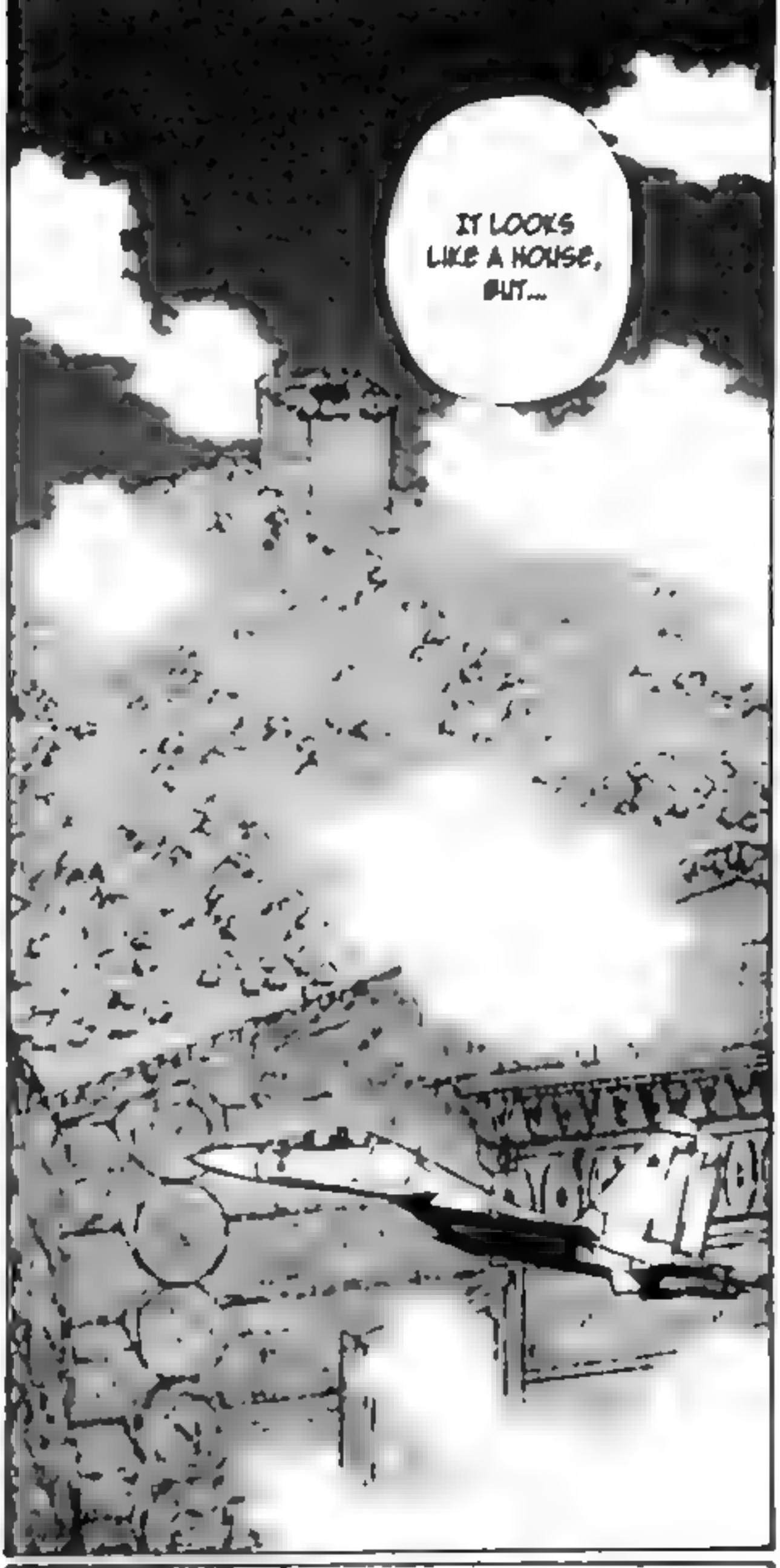
THERE'S A HUGE SHADOW ON THE RADAR.
REPORT!
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?

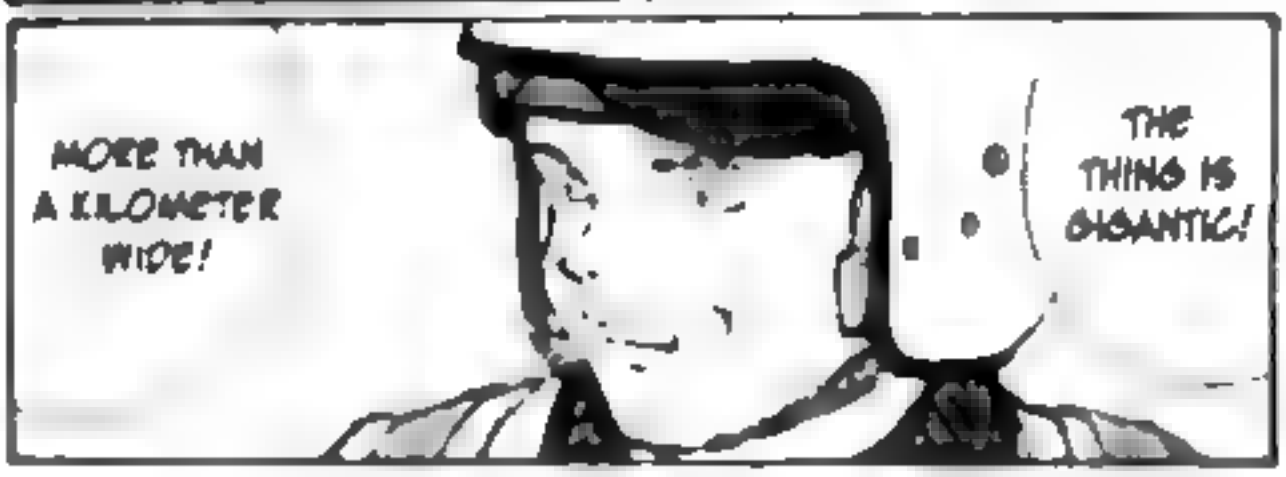

...THE WITCH'S HUT FROM THE FAIRY TALES!
...LOOKS LIKE...



THAT...




IT LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE, BUT...


MORE THAN A KILOMETER WIDE!
THE THING IS GIGANTIC!

ТАМАИ

THE WRECK OF AN AIRPLANE!

参

AH?!

...PILOTING?!

YOU'RE ...

MOTHER?!

I'LL DO IT!!

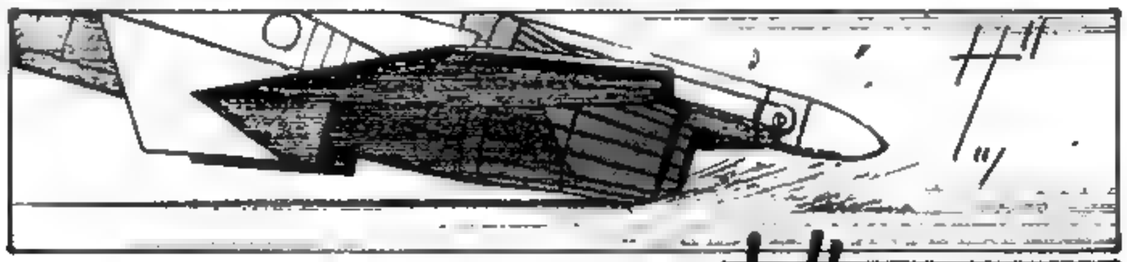
THE PLANE'S DAMAGED ANYWAY!

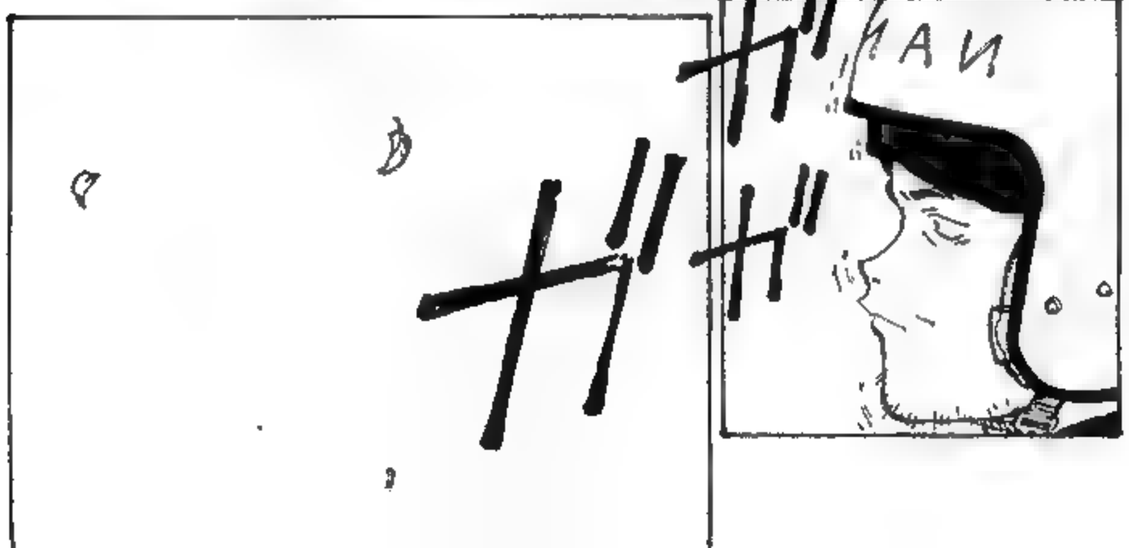
OVER THERE?!

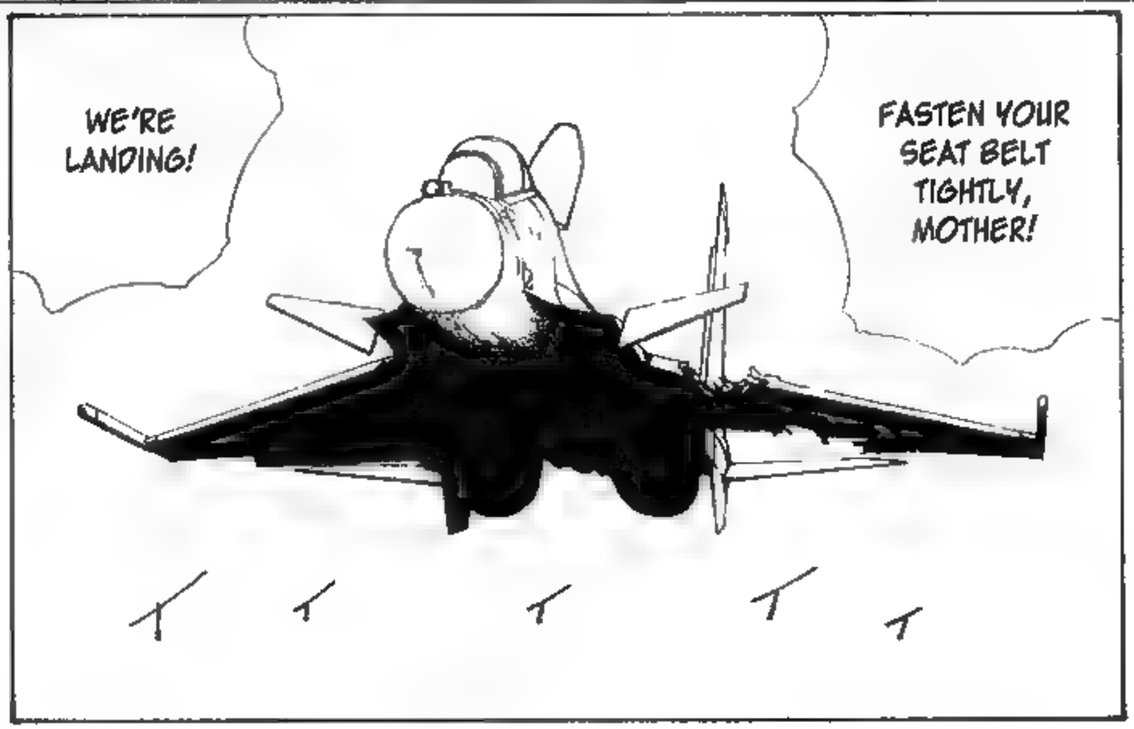
WE'RE LANDING.

OKAY.

I'LL DUMP THE FUEL AND DITCH THE PLANE!




HAH


WE'RE LANDING!
FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT TIGHTLY, MOTHER!

EVERYTHING OK?

DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN OLD WOMAN ALL THE TIME!

YOU KNOW HOW TO PILOT...?!

I'M MOVING OFF.

THE PLANE PROBABLY WON'T CATCH FIRE, BUT WE SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE QUICKLY ALL THE SAME.

I SALUTE YOU, YOUNG MAN! PASSED THE TEST!

Because you treated an old lady well!

...I DO FEEL A LITTLE TIRED.

ALTHOUGH, TO BE HONEST...

WE CAME FROM THAT DIRECTION!

THIS WAY!

...TO THE WRECK, ISN'T IT?

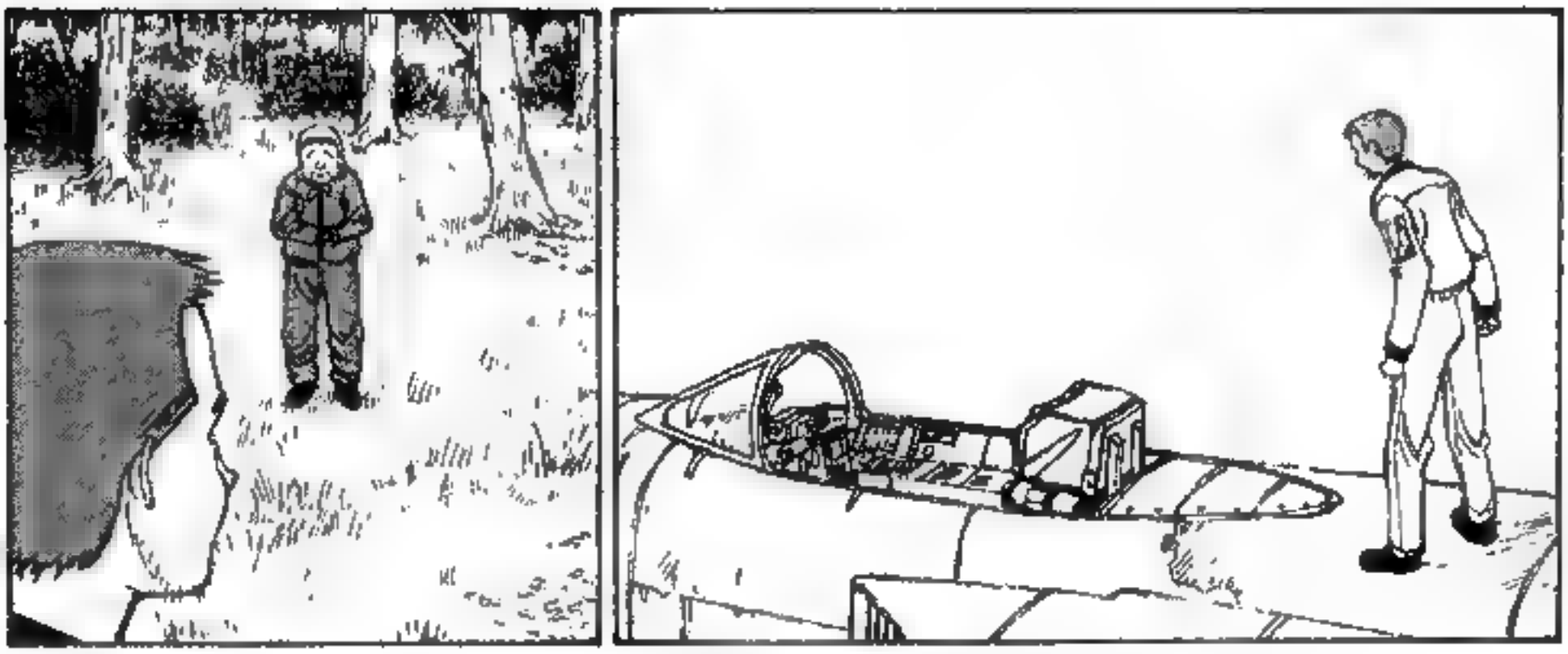
IT'S THAT WAY...

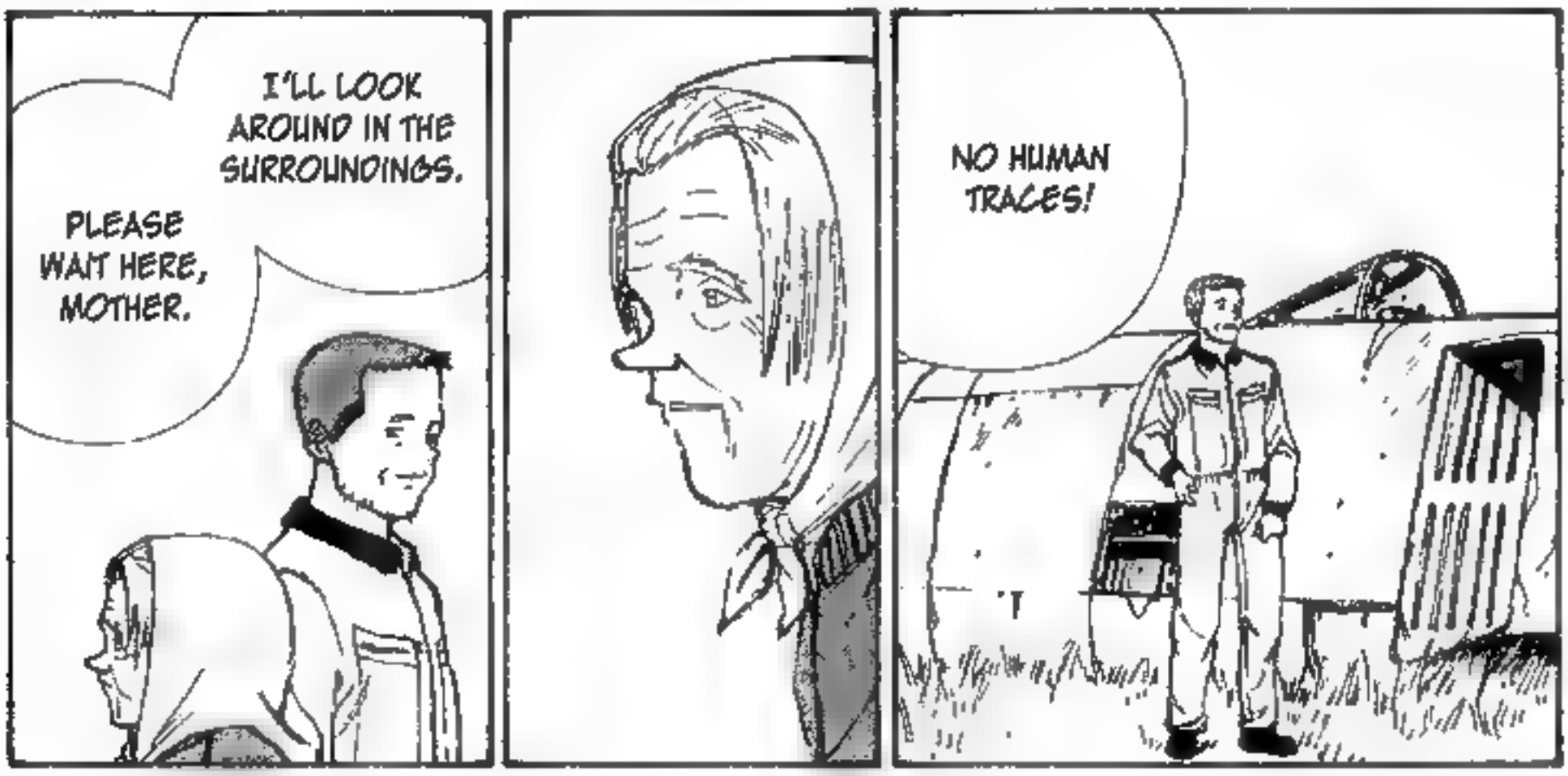
...ORIENT OURSELVES BASED ON THE POSITION OF THE SUN!

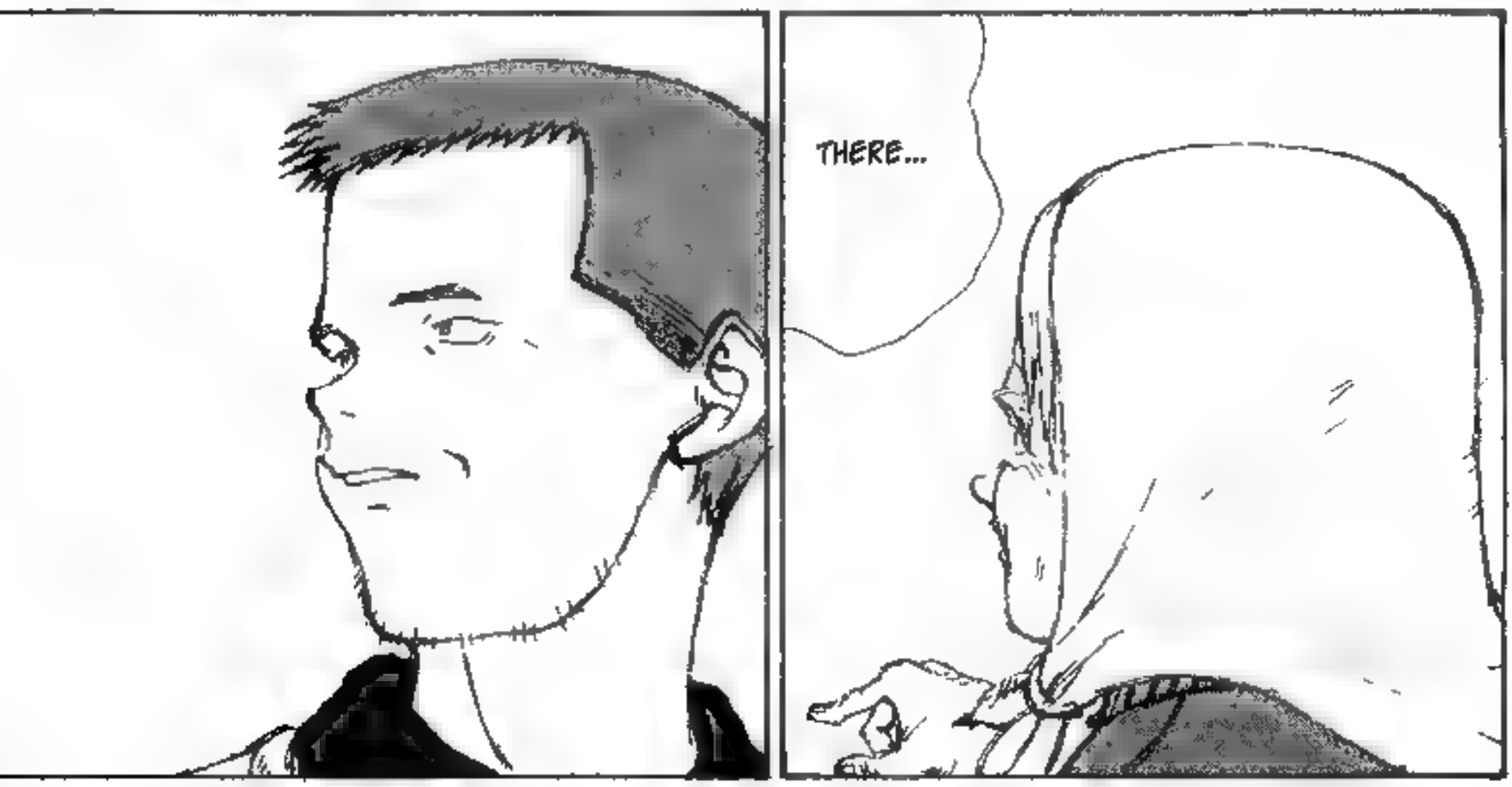
WE'LL STAY ON THE PATH WHERE WE'RE MOBILE AND SHOULD...

IS THAT YOUR SON'S AIRCRAFT?

I'M GOING OVER.
PLEASE WAIT HERE.




I'LL LOOK AROUND IN THE SURROUNDINGS.
PLEASE WAIT HERE, MOTHER.
NO HUMAN TRACES!


THERE...

ARREST THE TWO OF THEM!

THE ORDER STANDS.

A SQUAD IS STANDING BY TO INSPECT THE OBJECT.

SPEED UNCHANGED.

THE FLOATING OBJECT IS CONTINUING TO MOVE WEST.

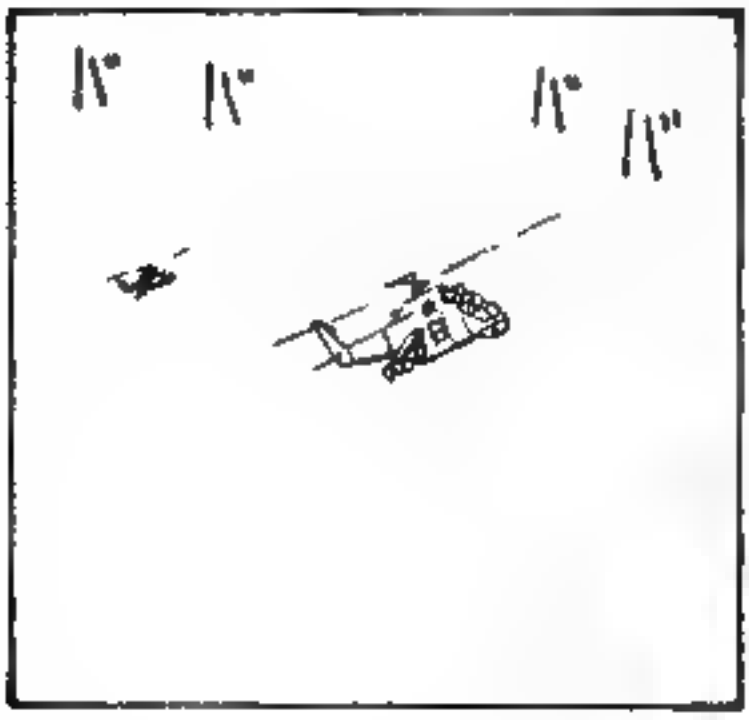
ALL MEN PREPARE FOR LANDING!

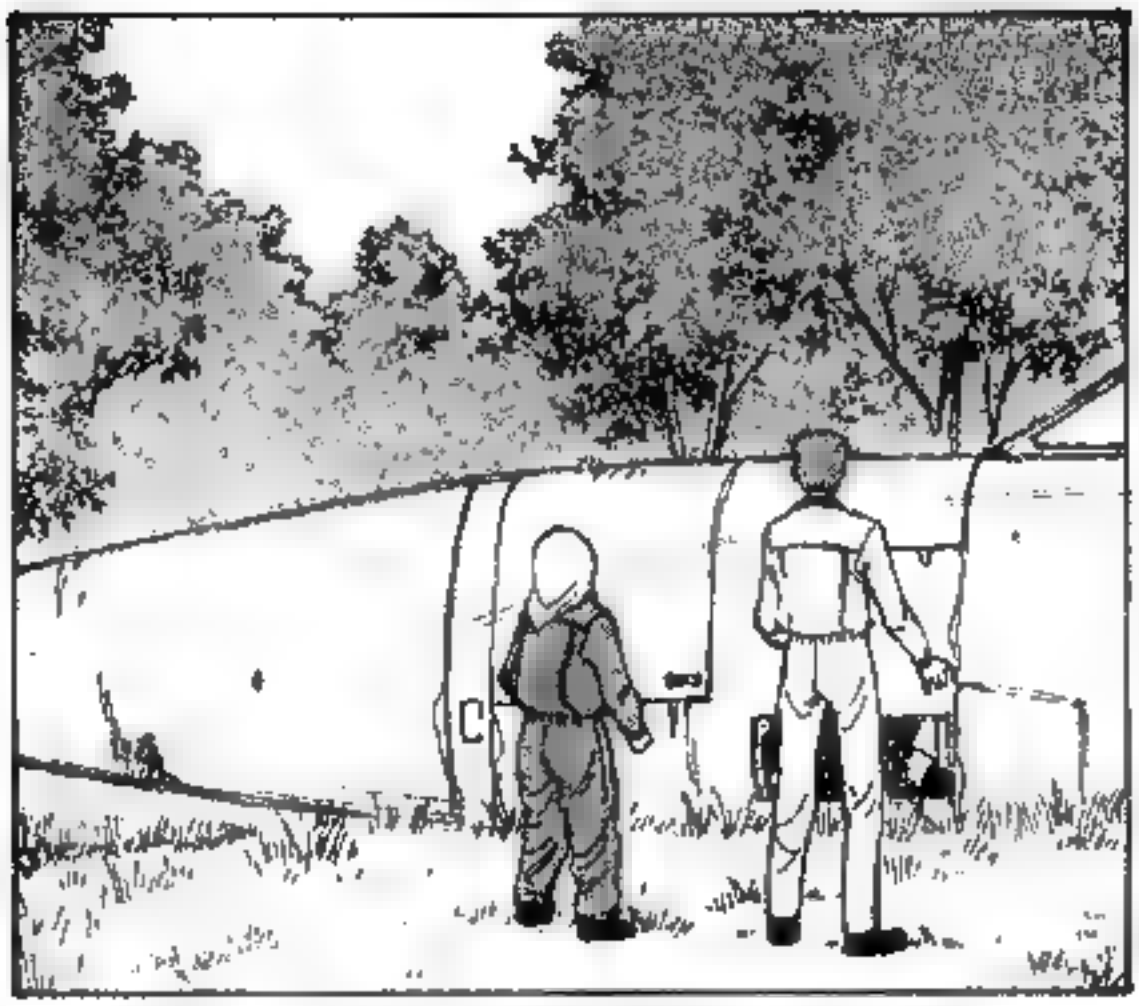
SHOOT IF YOU ENCOUNTER RESISTANCE.

WONDER IF SHE UNDER-STANDS RUSSIAN?

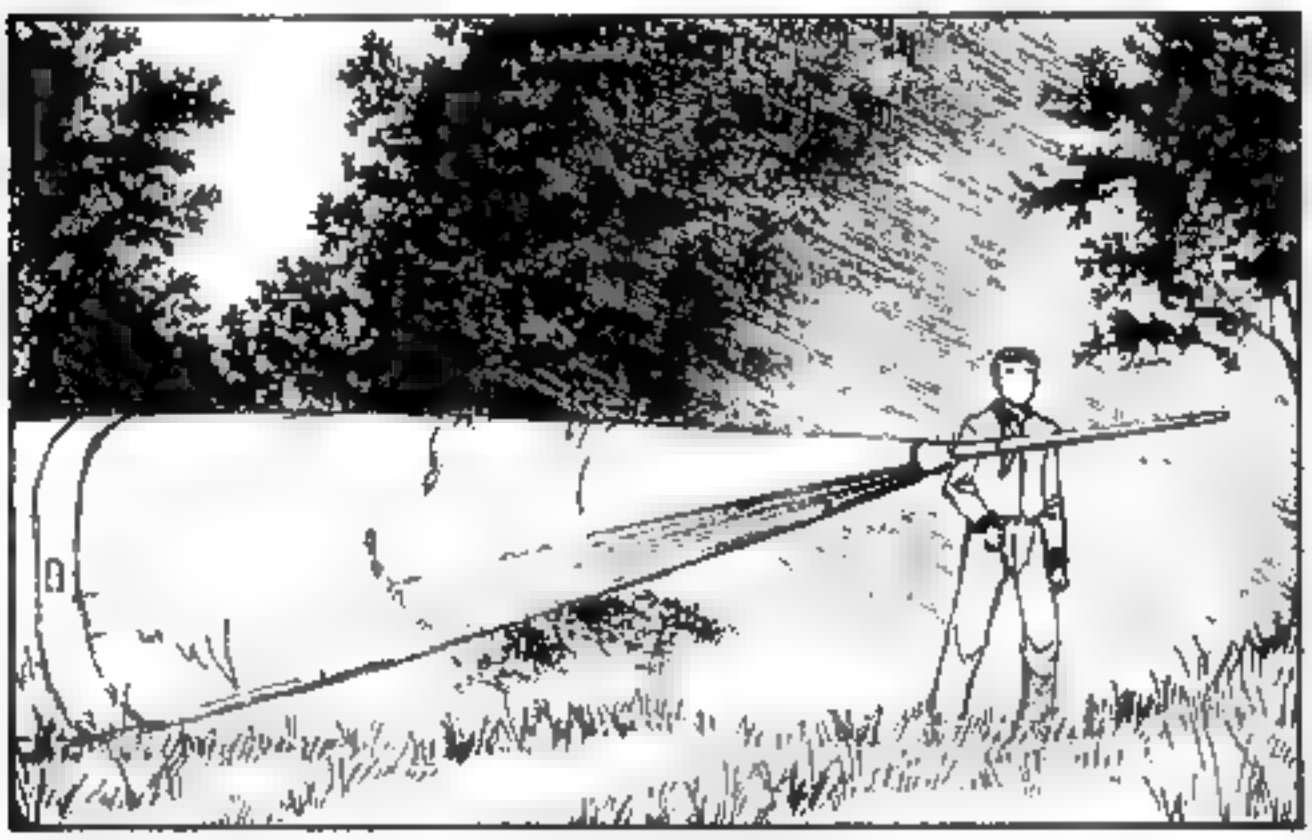
HMM.

EH...





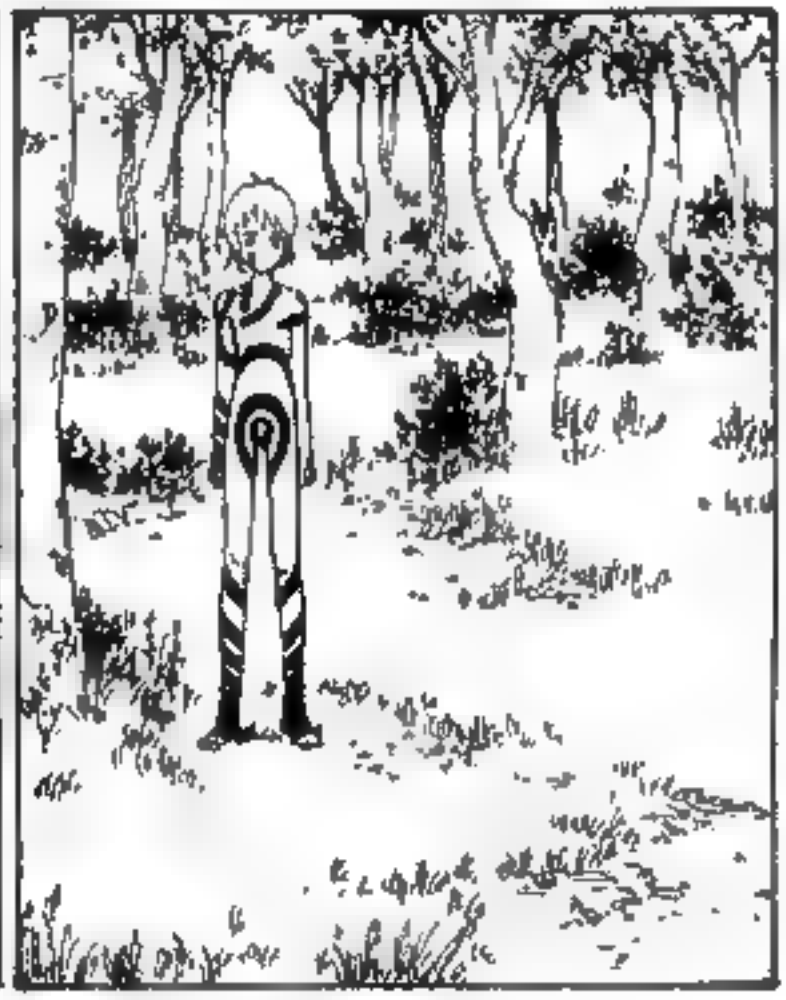
NOW THEY'VE EVEN DEPLOYED HELICOPTERS!



AH?

COME, MOTHER!

SHE WANTS US TO FOLLOW?



AT 2 O'CLOCK!

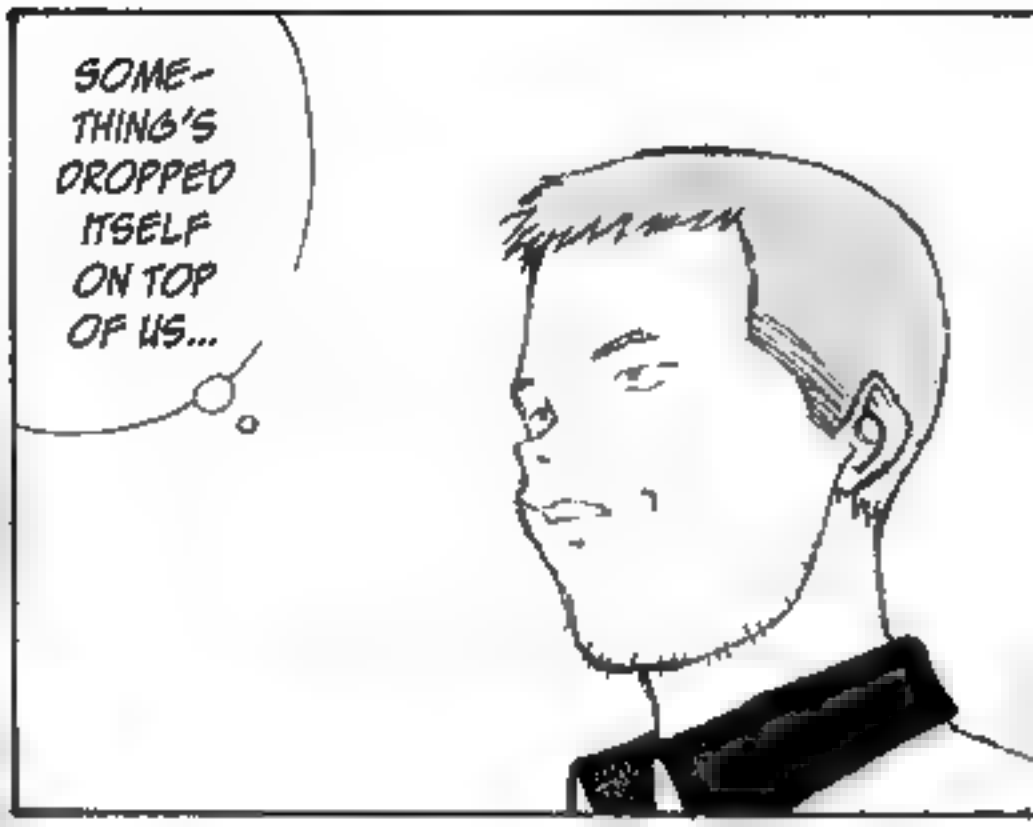
READY TO ABSEIL!

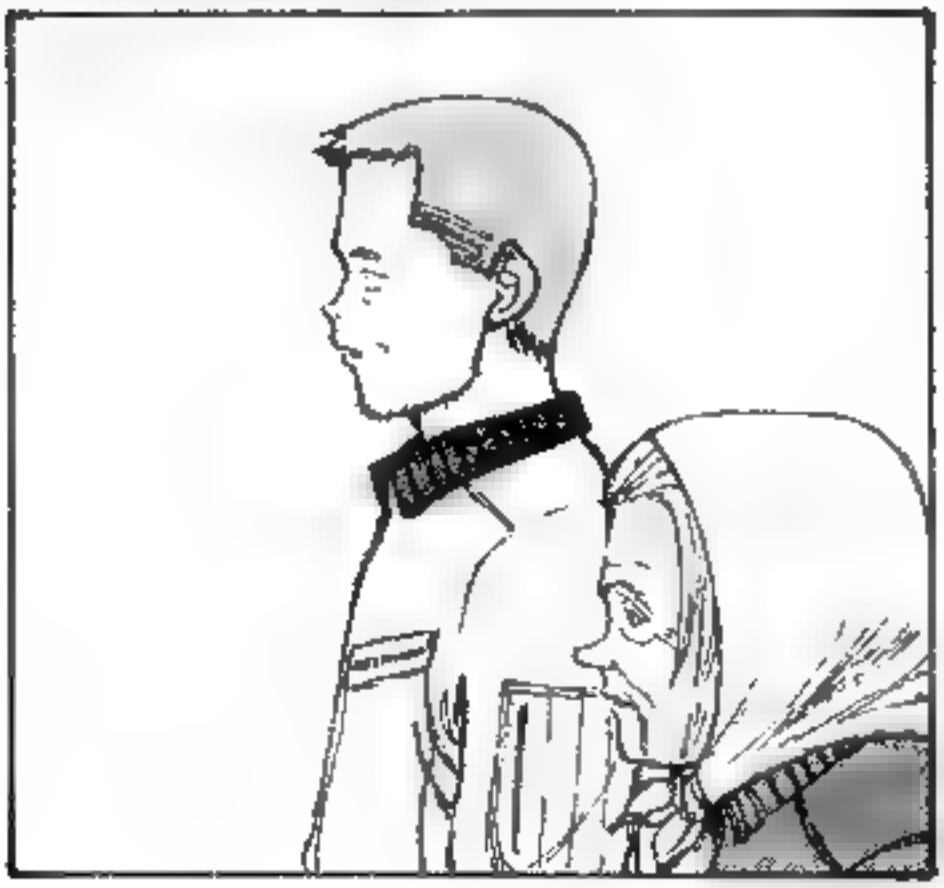
HMM?

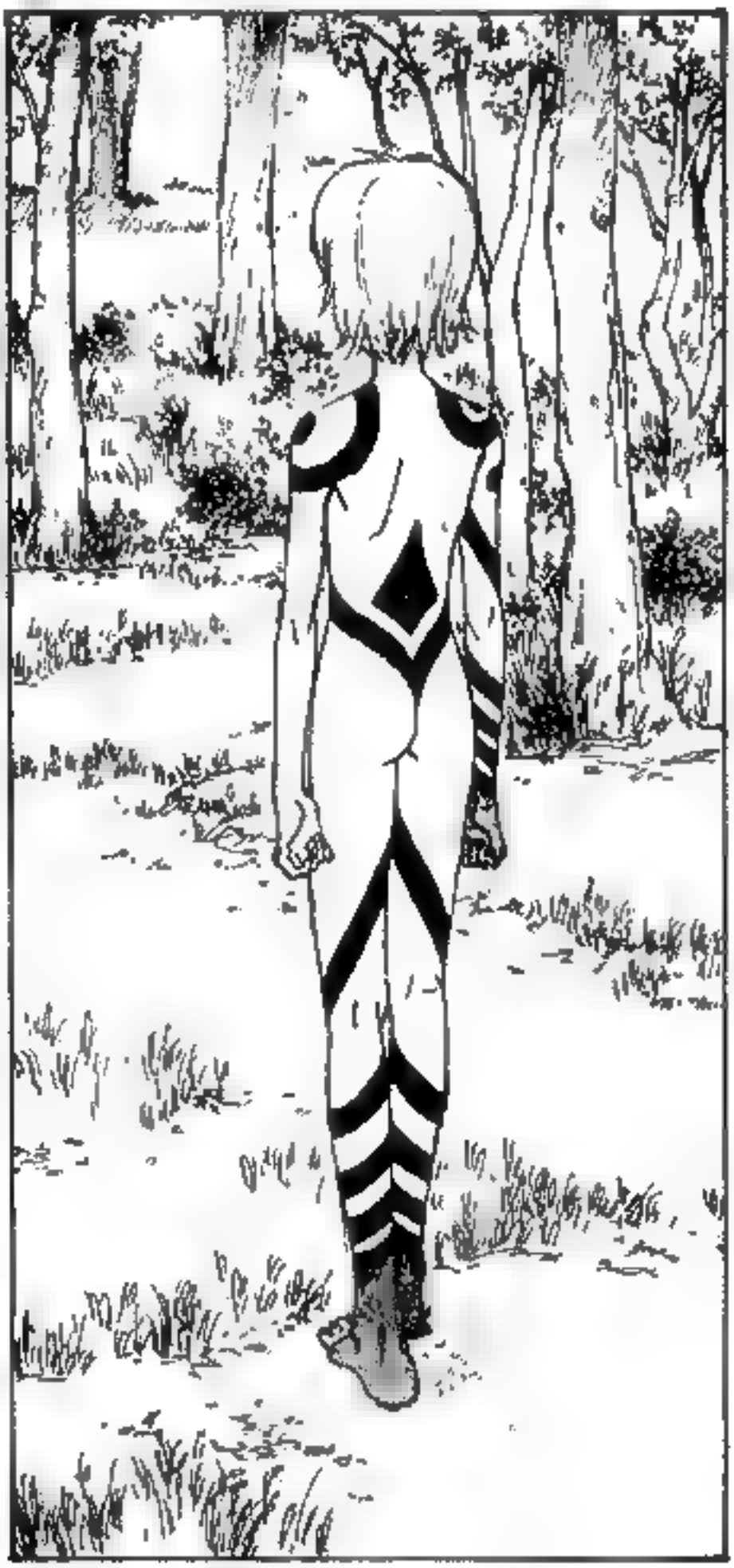
AH...

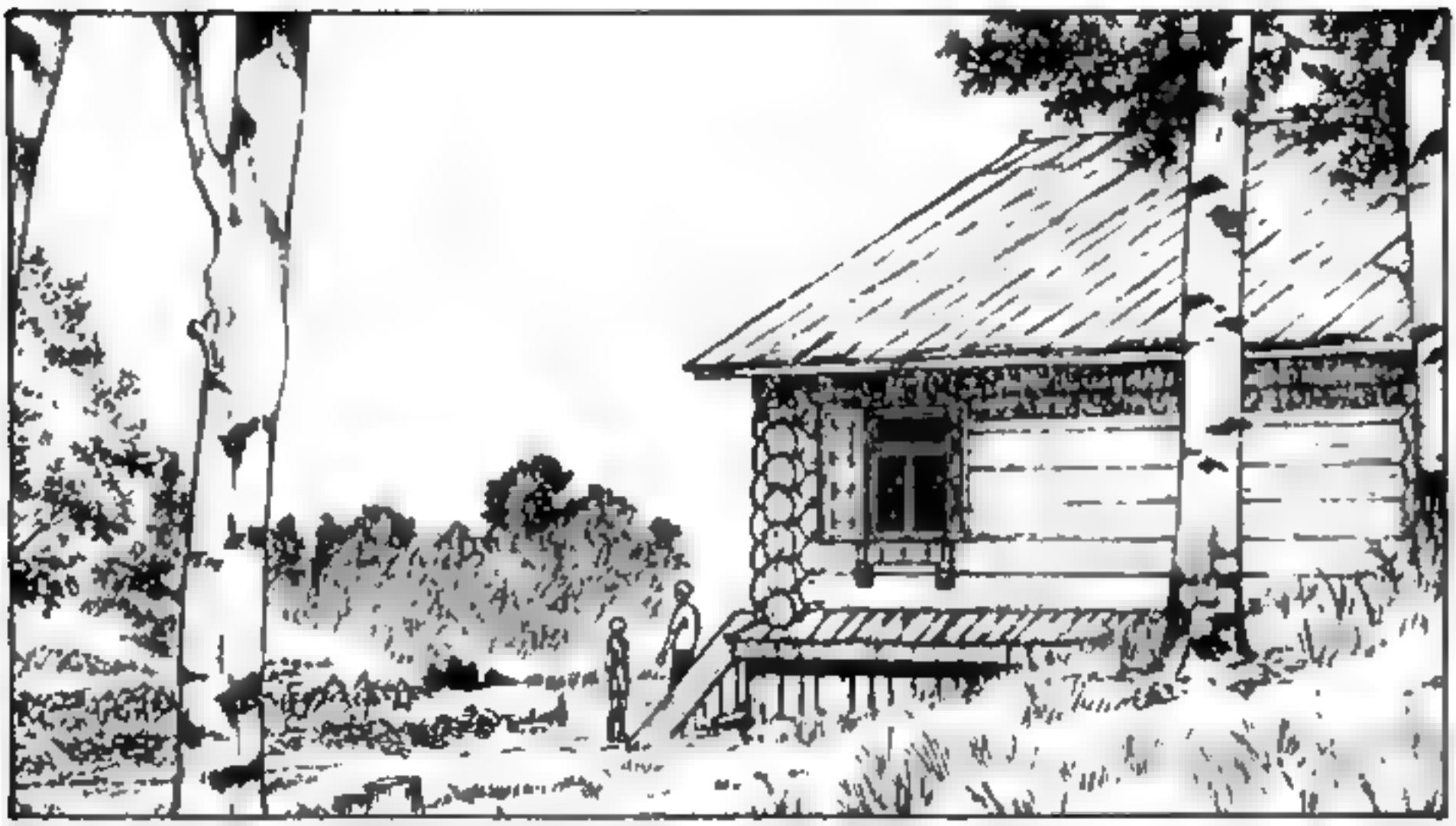
RETREAT!!

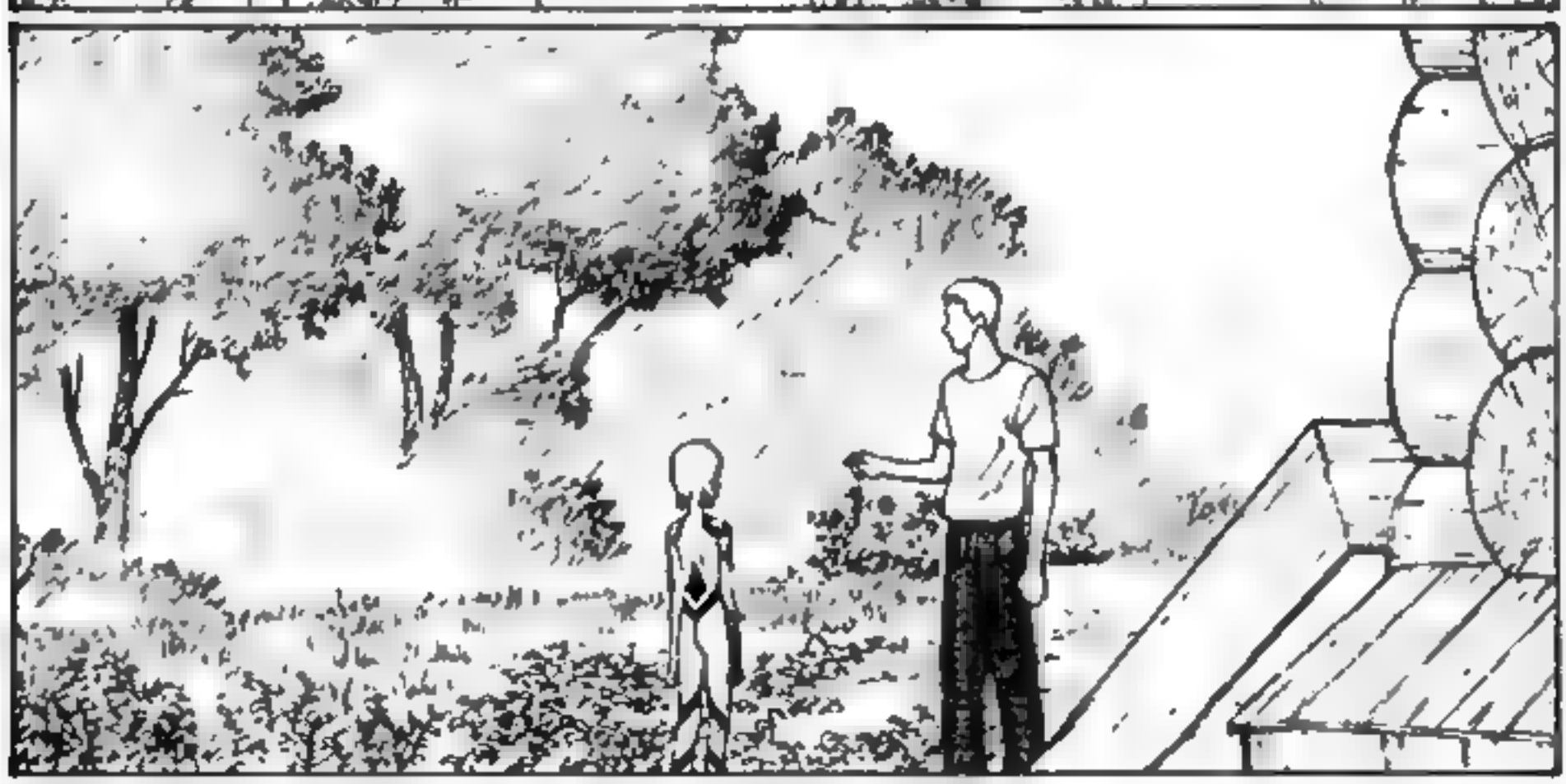
WAS THAT HER? TO PROTECT US?


SOME-THING'S DROPPED ITSELF ON TOP OF US...









ROLYA...

RO...

VASILISSA, SOME-BODY'S THERE!

BUT...
I...

MO...
MOTHER?

...HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE 18 YEARS HAVE PASSED...

BUT...

YOUR SON?

WE'RE IN SPACE?

HMM...

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT ALL!

YES.

WE'RE NOW OUTSIDE THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

AND I THOUGHT I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR 3 YEARS.

UNBELIEVABLE, 18 YEARS HAVE PASSED ON EARTH!

...AND...

THEN THIS IS THE CASTLE OF THE DRAGON KING...

REALLY! LIKE IN THE FAIRY TALE "URASHIMA TAROU"!*

*Famous Japanese Fairy tale about a Fisherman who visits the palace of the dragon king under the ocean and returns 300 years later See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urashima_Tar%C5%8D

SHE...

WELL NOW...

SHE LOOKS LIKE A GIRL...

...BUT ACTUALLY, I HAVE NO IDEA IF SHE IS FEMALE, MALE...

...OR EVEN HUMAN.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK, AT LEAST.

A PART OF HER HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF BABA YAGA'S HUT.

WELL, IT'S ONLY MADE UP OF EARTH, PLANTS AND MICRO-ORGANISMS...

...BUT SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE BIOLOGICAL EQUILIBRIUM.

SHE TAKES CARE OF LIGHT, WATER AND AIR!

WITH THIS FLYING BODY, SHE HAS BROUGHT LIFE INTO SPACE.

SHE HERSELF NEVER SPEAKS.

THIS GIRL...

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT HER?

...TAKE CARE OF THE PLANTS.

I...

I LOOK AT THE PLANTS AND WHAT MUST BE DONE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND GIVE HER SUGGESTIONS.

SOMETIMES IT'S VERY MUNDANE STUFF...

...IMAGES OF THE FOREST OR ANIMALS...

SHE HERSELF NEVER SLEEPS.

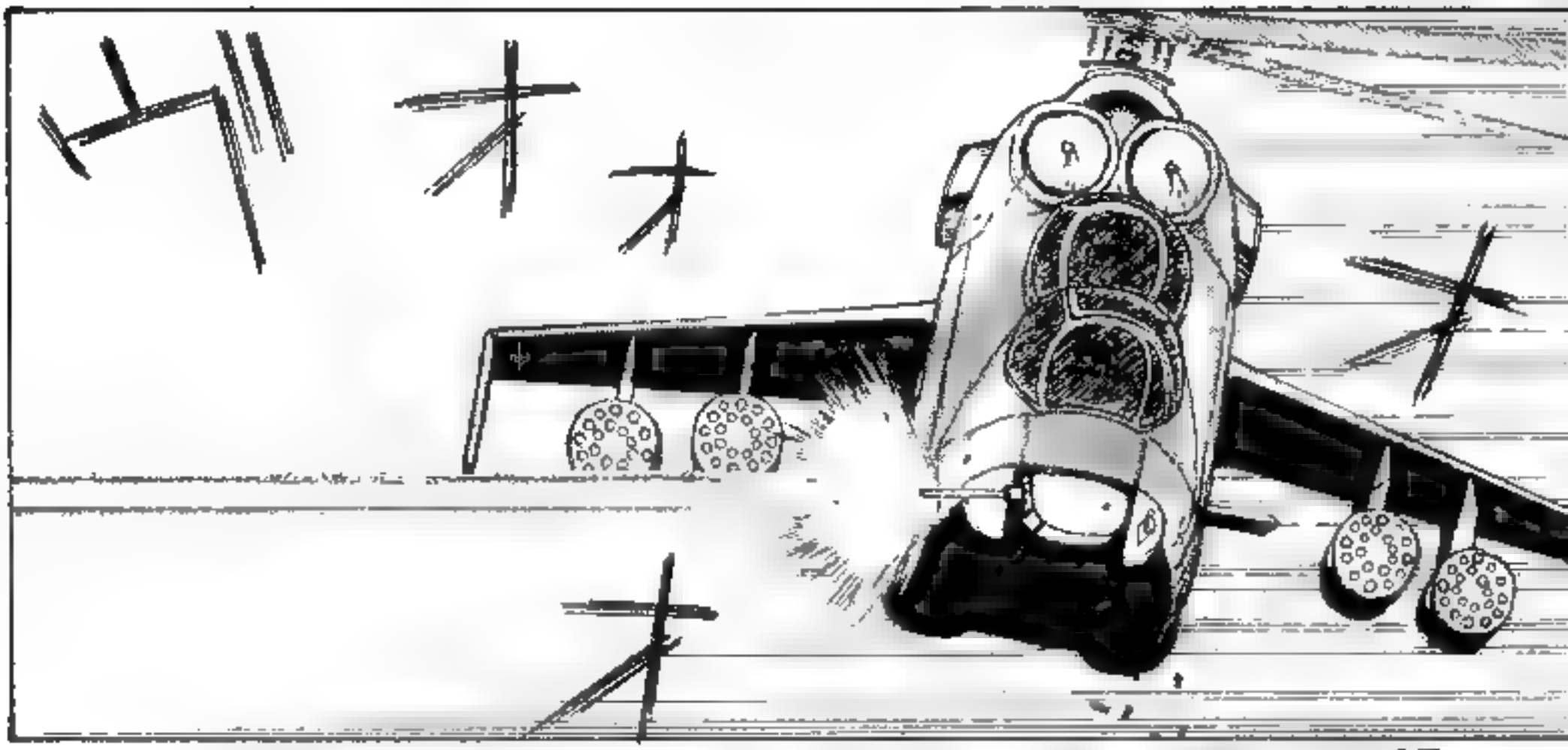
BUT WHEN I'M SLEEPING, I SEE WHAT SHE DREAMS OF.

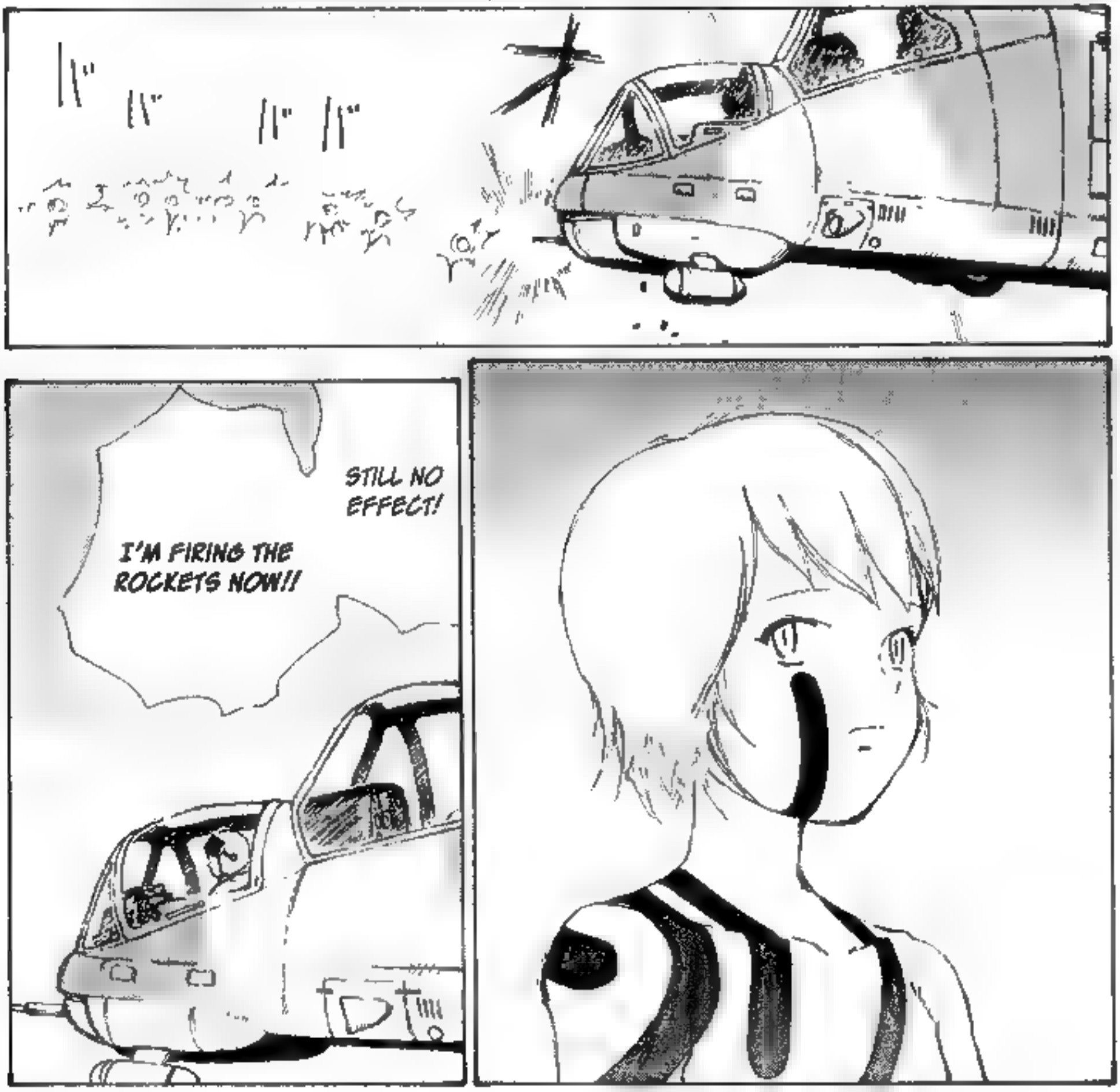
THE LANDSCAPE REMINDS ME OF THAT OF MY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES.

BUT SOMETIMES I CAN RECOGNISE IN THE DREAM THE MIND OF A LITTLE GIRL.

I THINK...

...SHE WAS A HUMAN ONCE.




STILL NO EFFECT!
I'M FIRING THE ROCKETS NOW!!

FIRE!!

2

2.

WHAT?! WHERE ARE THEY?!

...BUT SOMEONE'S ATTACKING US!

I DON'T KNOW EITHER...

WELL...

It's called by a different name now...

IS THE SOVIET ARMY ATTACKING?

YOU'RE SAFE HERE!

NO, I THINK I AM THEIR TARGET...

YOU, MOTHER?

AND THIS MAN HERE WAS HELPING ME!

I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU!

YOU KNOW...

BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE, MOTHER?

I DID NOT EXPECT AFTER ALL THIS TIME TO FIND YOU STILL ALIVE!

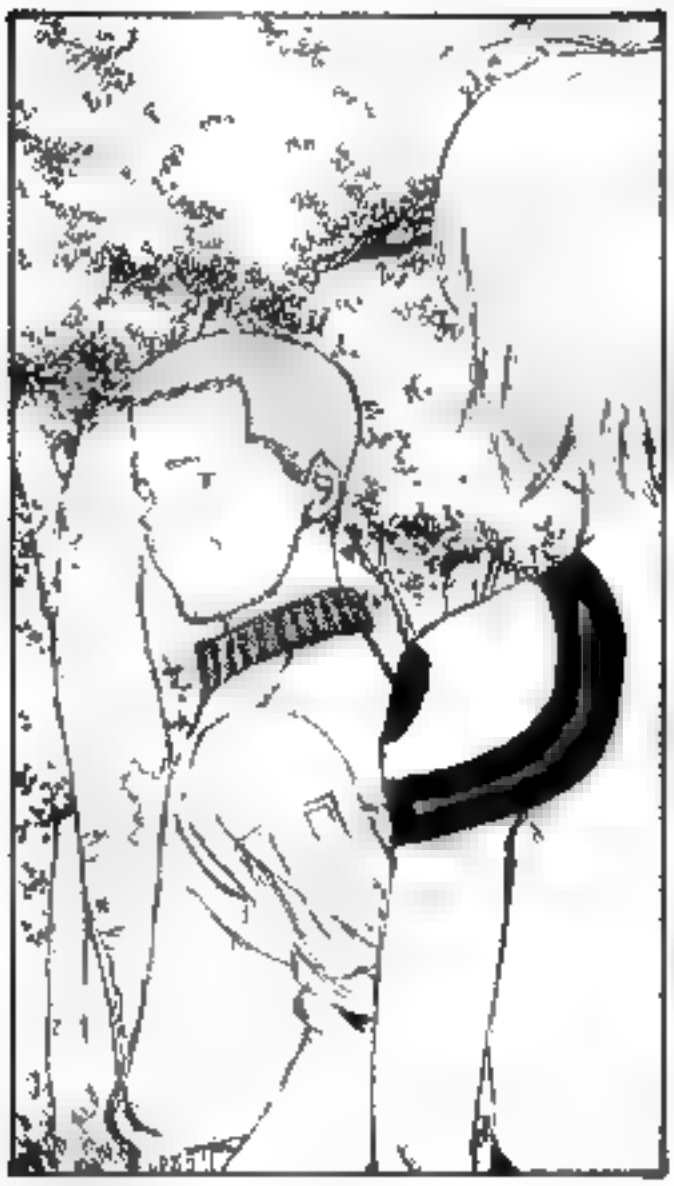
I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ALONE, MOTHER.

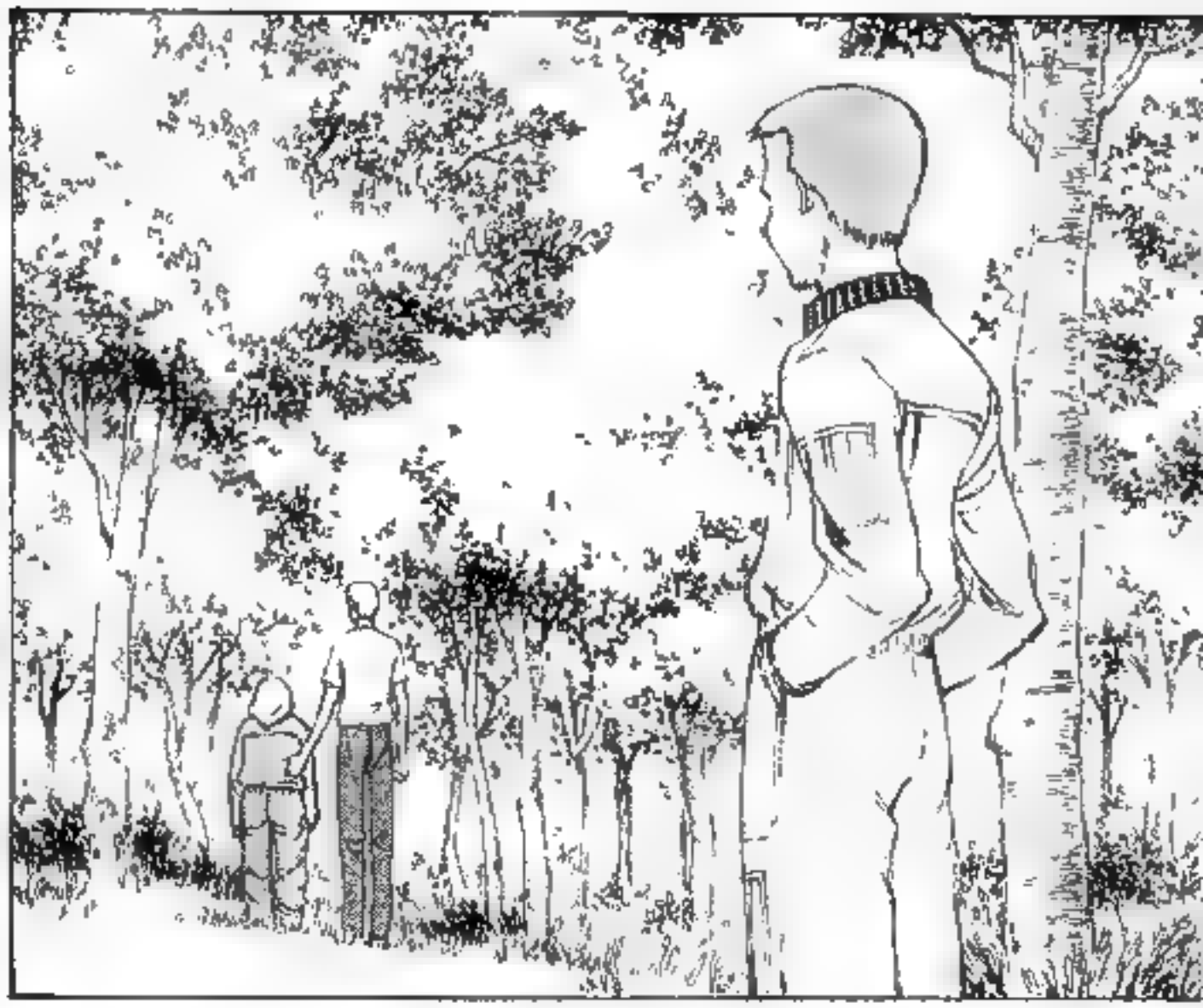
...FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH WORRY.

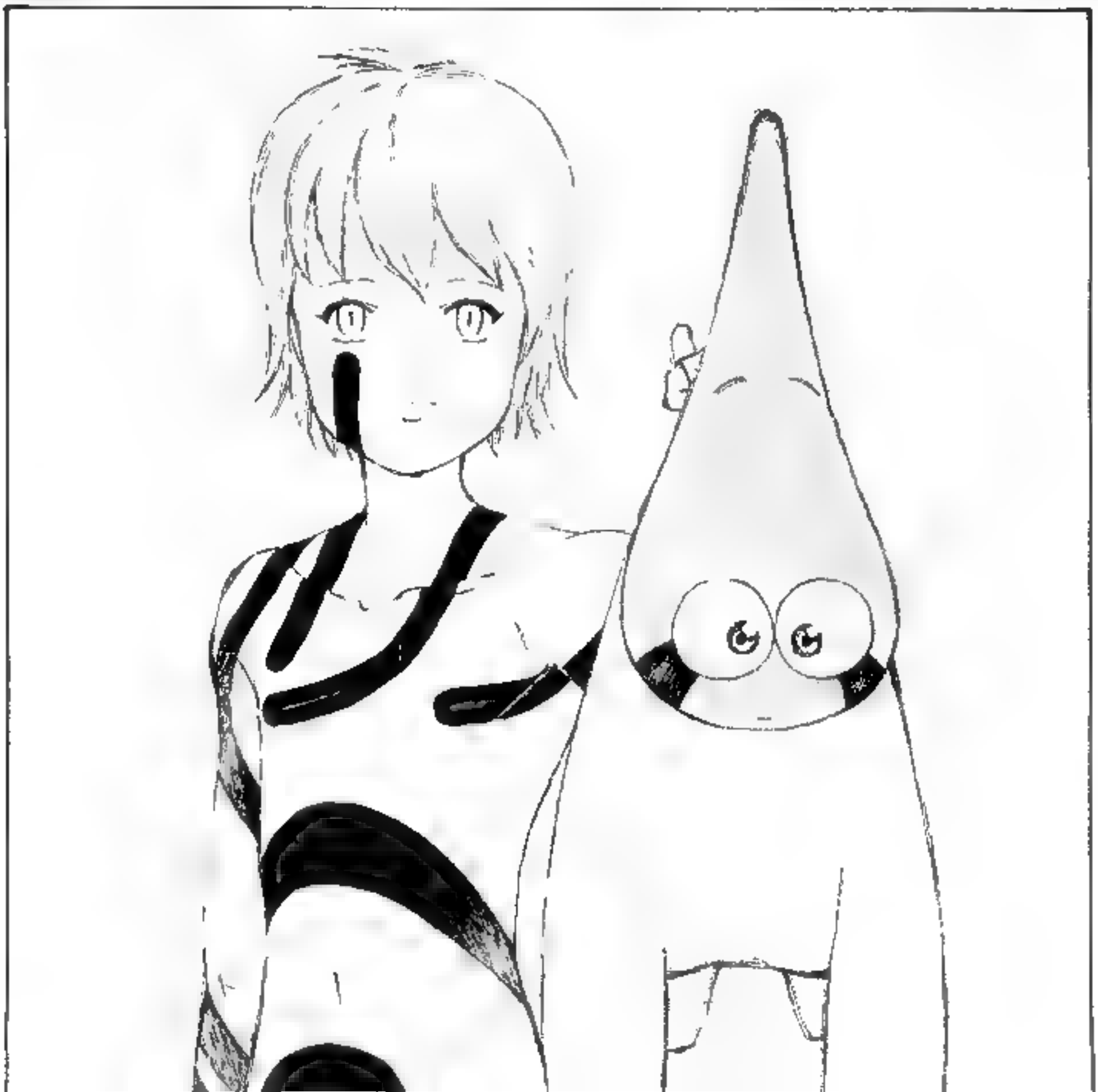
FORGIVE ME...

THE IMPORTANT THING IS, YOU'RE ALIVE!

OF COURSE!







OH, WHAT THE HECK!

HMM? WHY...

WELL, I'M SLOWLY GETTING USED TO...

...TOTALLY CRAZY STUFF TOO!

FOR YOU THIS IS PROBABLY COMPLETELY NORMAL...

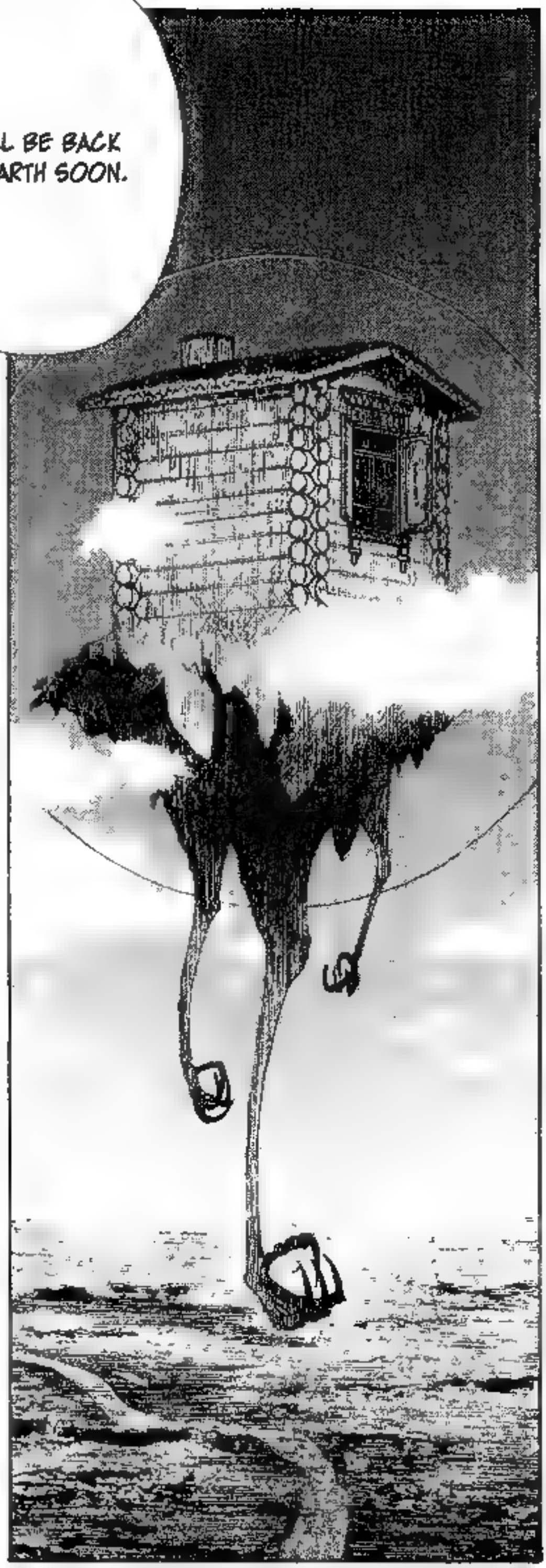
...I MEAN, MY WIFE, SHE WOULD FAINT!

IF I TELL MISONO...

WE'LL BE BACK ON EARTH SOON.

DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY HERE, MOTHER?

CAN'T YOU COME HOME, SON?



YOU WANT TO GO ON WITH THIS, DON'T YOU?

... CAN I?

I CAN'T MOVE IN TO SPACE...

IN THE BEGINNING I WANTED TO...

WILL IT BE ANOTHER 18 YEARS?

AND WHEN WILL WE MEET AGAIN?

ROLYA...

WE WILL LEAVE THE EARTH AGAIN SOON.

SHE'LL BRING YOU DOWN.

WE'LL SET YOU DOWN IN A SUBURB OF TOWN.

...BUT THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT NOW.

ACTUALLY, WE SHOULD TAKE CARE NOT TO BE SEEN...

DON'T YOU WANT TO COME BACK TO EARTH?

LET'S GO.

IT'S OK.

MOTHER?

SHE SAYS...

...I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT EXACTLY...

THE GIRL WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING TO YOU...

FORGIVE ME, BUT...

...PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER!

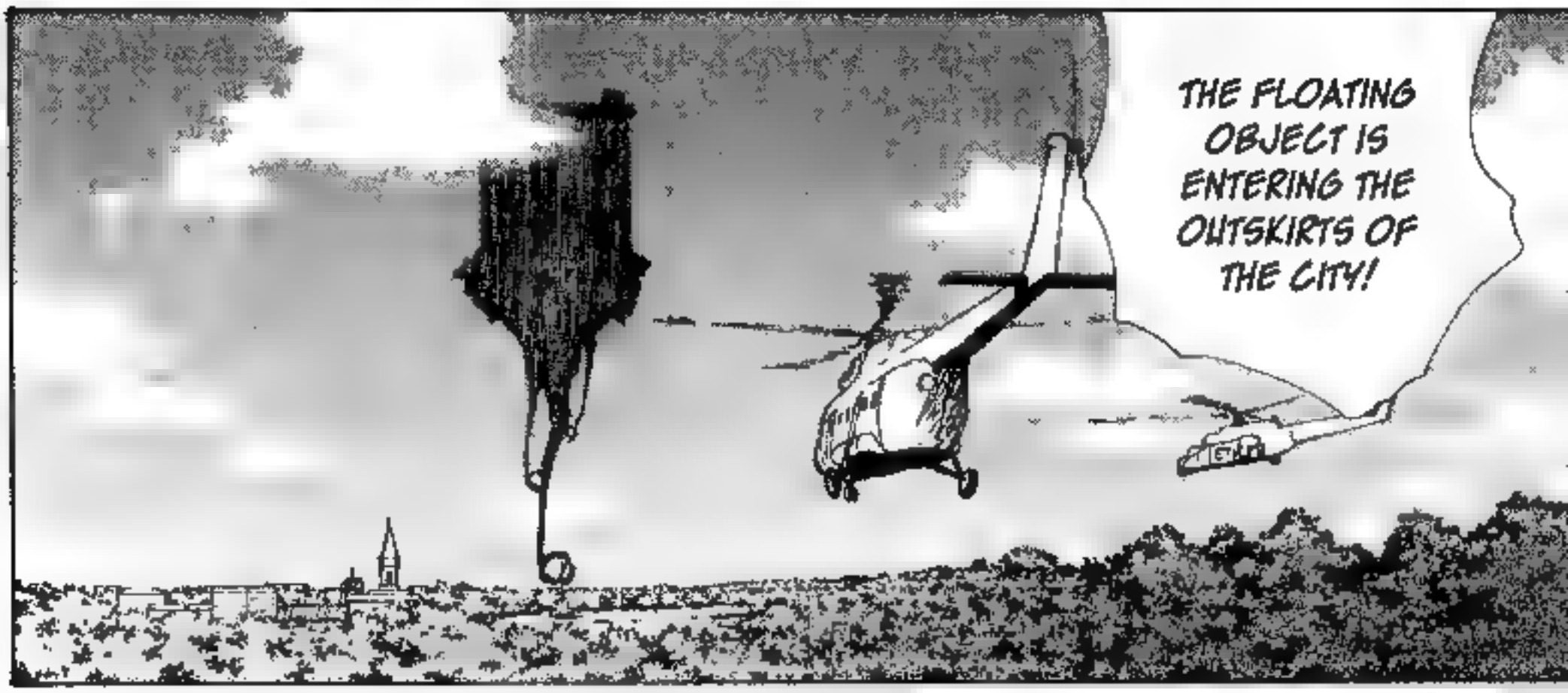
SHE IS HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU.

AND...

SHE WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY HER RESPECT AND LOVE.

...BEST REGARDS TO YOUR FAMILY!

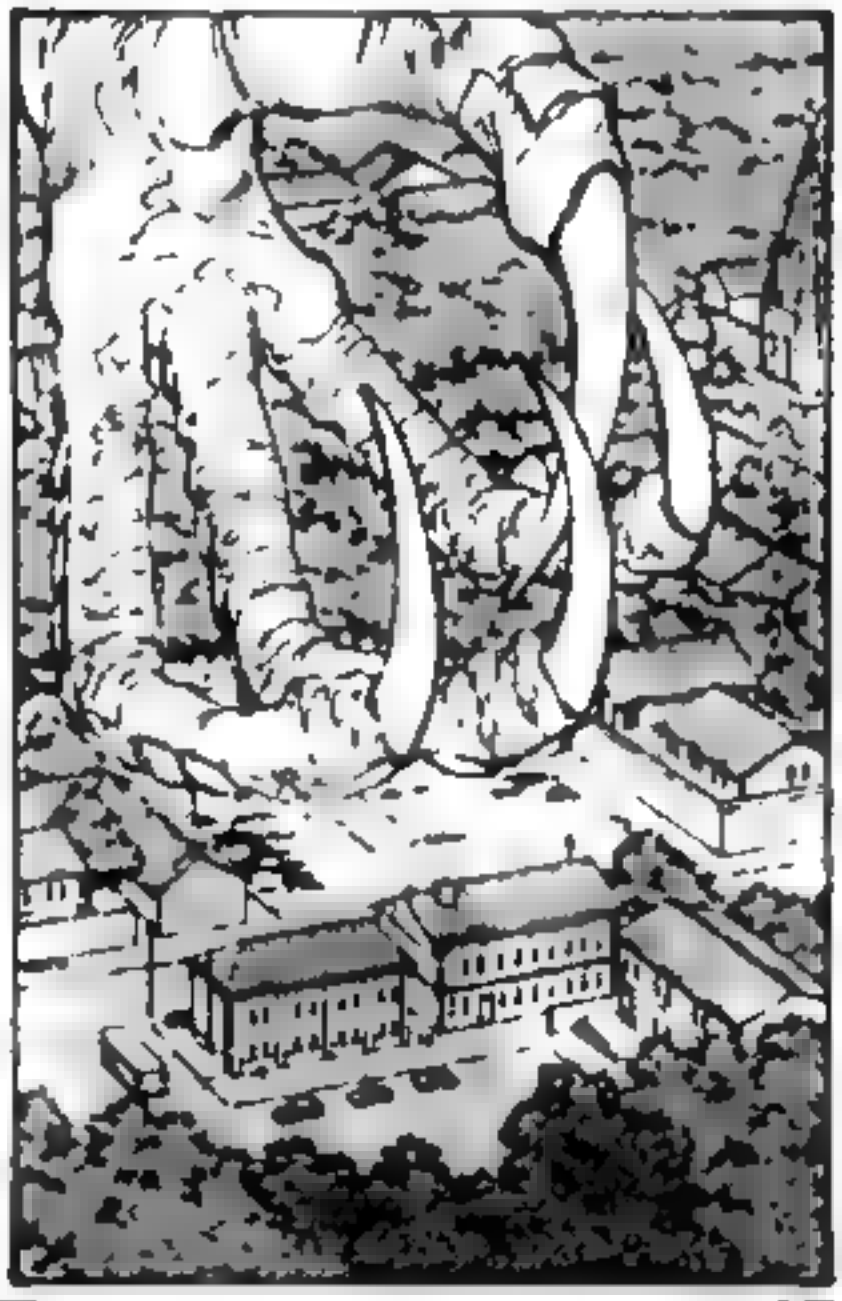
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAYS.

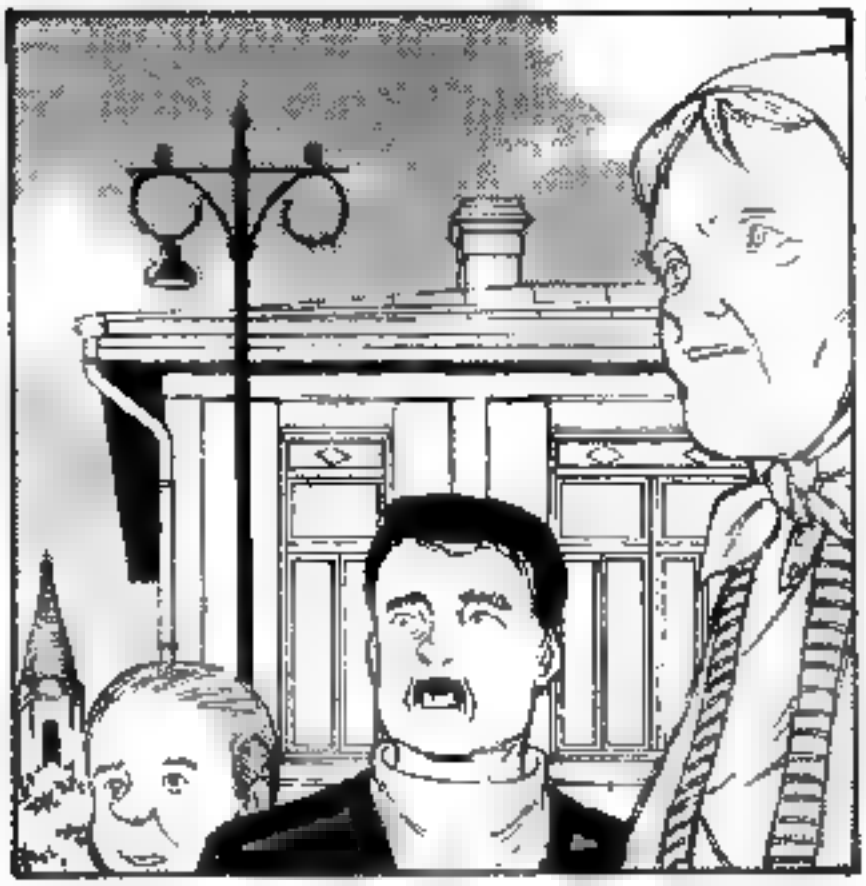

THE FLOATING OBJECT IS ENTERING THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY!

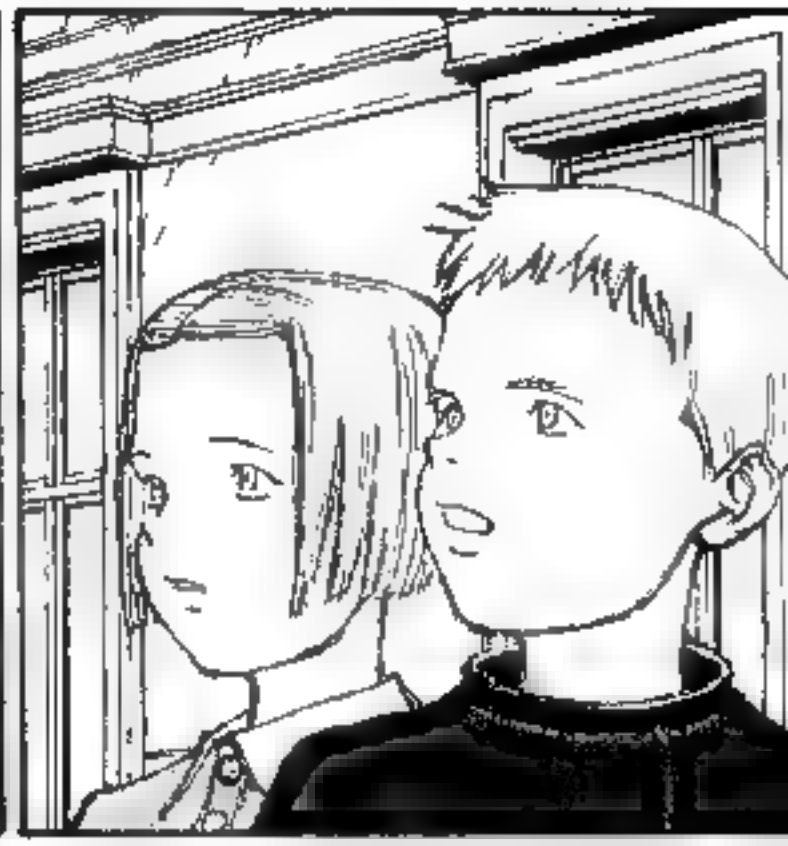
NO PROBLEM!
STAY SEATED!

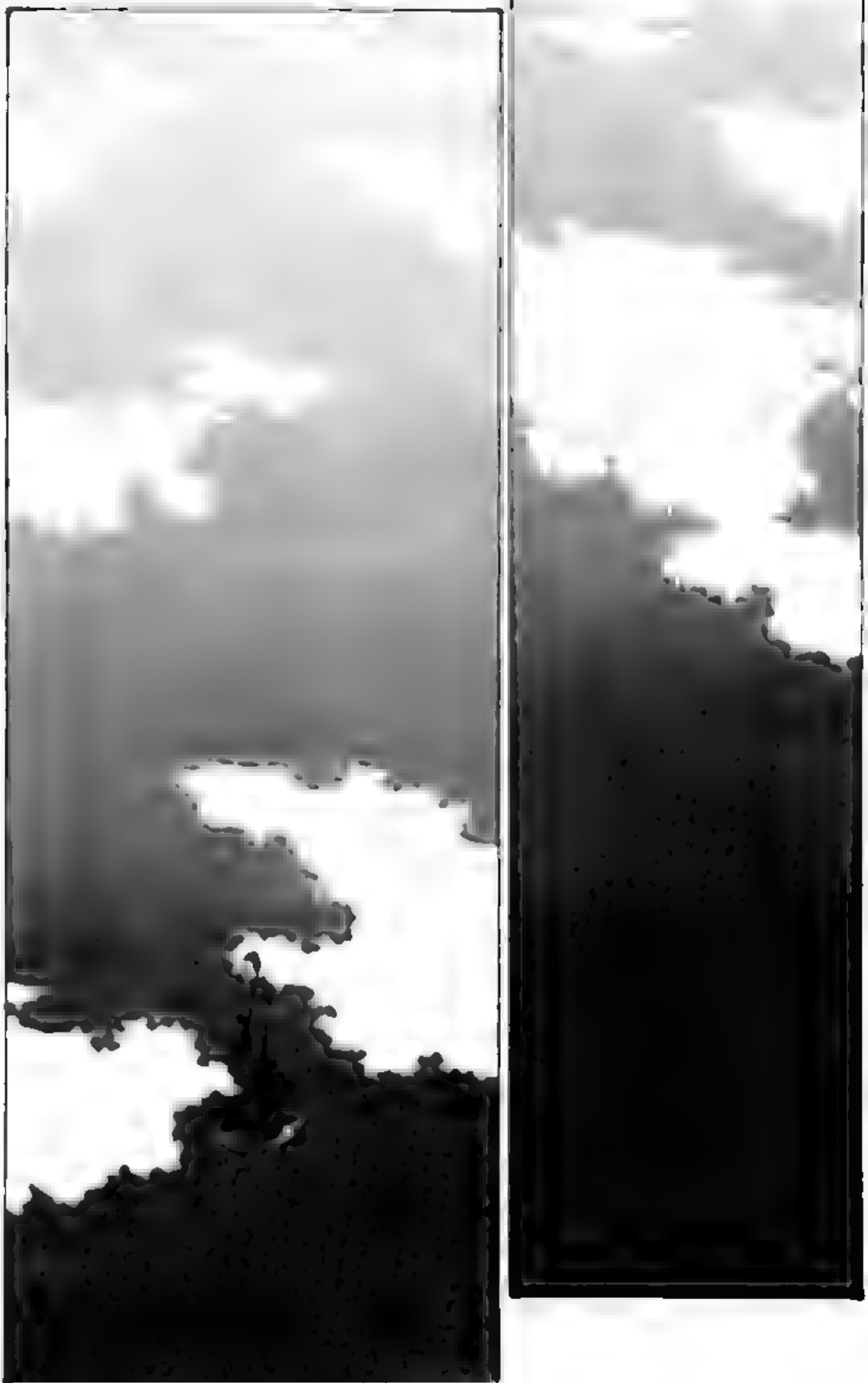
CAN WE SEE IT FROM HERE SOON?

THE OBJECT HAS STOPPED!









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BUT I ESCAPED DEATH BY A HAIR'S BREADTH!

I ENVY YOU!

WOULD BE NO WONDER!

DOES IT MEAN ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE AFTER THEM?

NO WONDER WHEN YOU CONSIDER WHAT A SIGHT THEY GOT...

THE FSB DISAPPEARED IN A FLASH!

IT CAME OUT IN THE NEWS EVEN!

YES!

THE FSB IS INTERESTED IN THESE CREATURES THEN?

WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD TO UPSET BILATERAL TIES. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE IT KNOWN THEY'RE AWARE OF THAT.

TYPICAL JAPANESE WAY OF THINKING!

WHAT THE FSB IS PLANNING WOULD BE NO BIG SURPRISE!

REALLY FINE OF YOUR BOSS.

He puts the lives of his people on the scale

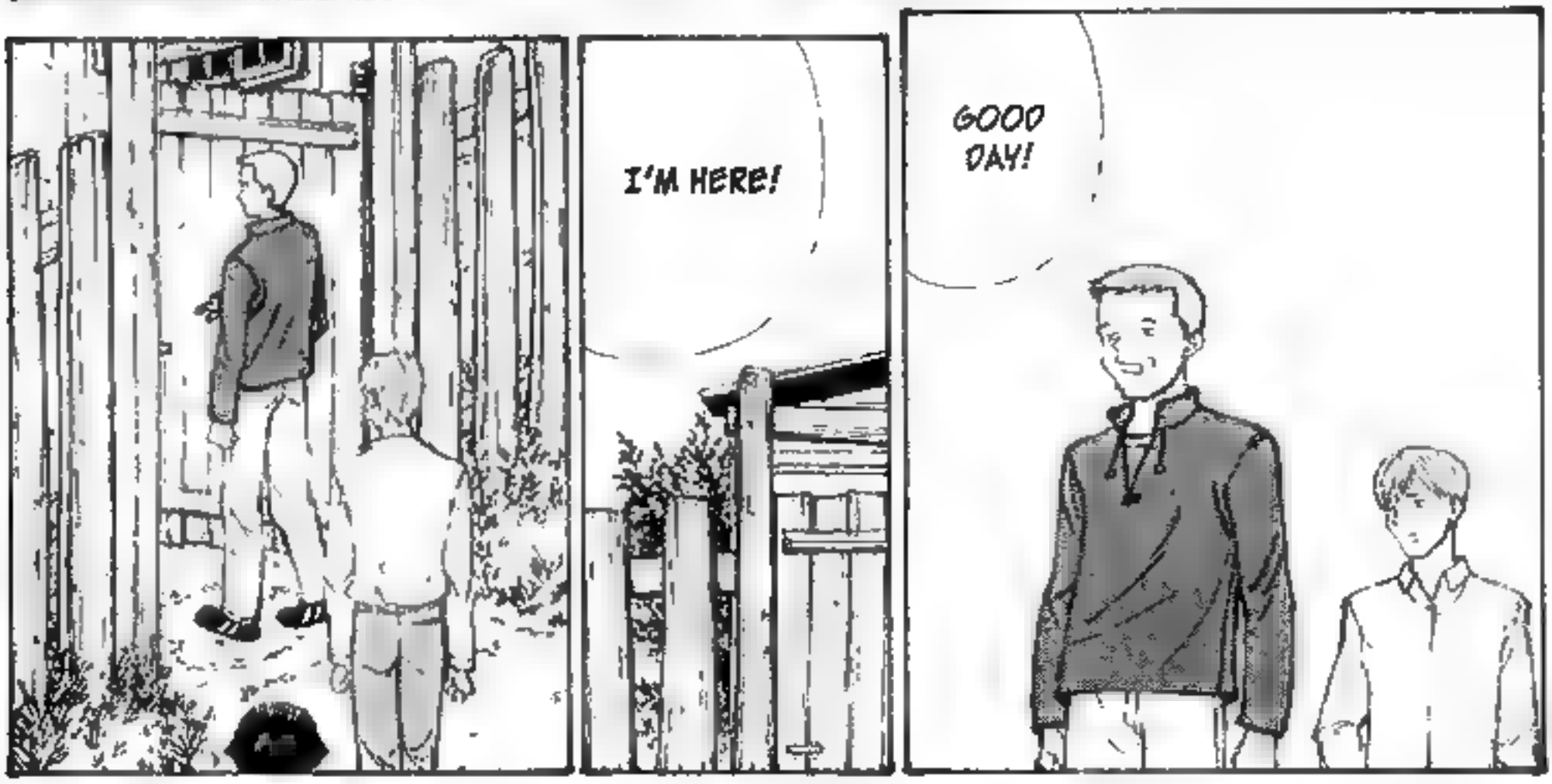
AND MOTOKI WOULD'VE GIVEN UP THE FLANKER TO THE FSB FOR NOTHING.

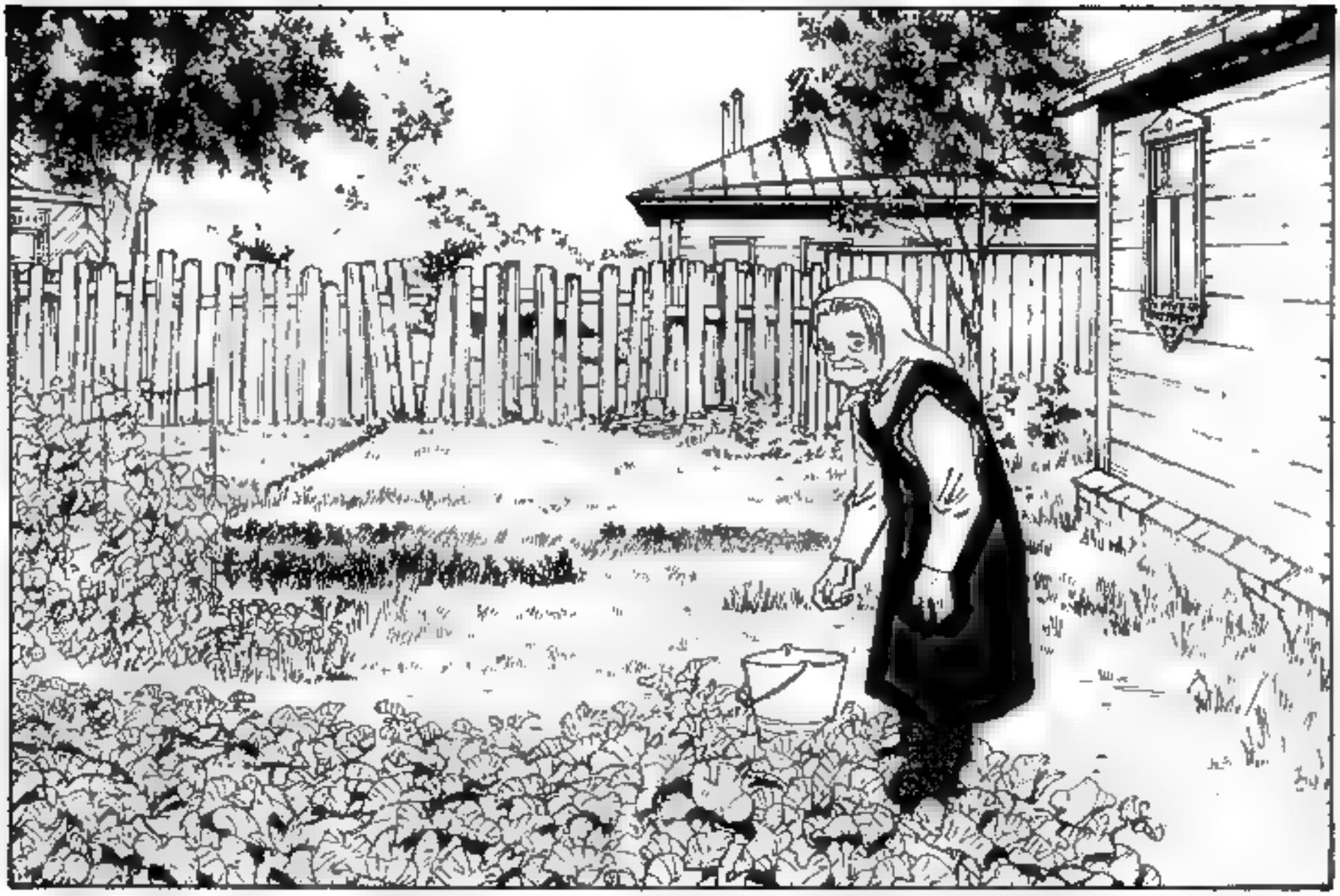
BUT YOU MEET THEM QUITE OFTEN, DON'T YOU?

WE DON'T KNOW THAT EXACTLY EITHER.

DO THEY REALLY EXIST?

BUT THESE CREATURES ...


I'M HERE!
GOOD DAY!



I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR SON.

'DAY.
GOOD DAY!

I HAVE NO OTHER WISHES.
AS LONG AS HE'S ALIVE SOMEWHERE!

NOW I KNOW HE IS ALIVE!
IT'S NOT NECESSARY.

EVEN IF THEIR PARENTS WOULD LIKE THAT.

CHILDREN DO NOT STAY WITH THEIR PARENTS FOREVER.

THEN YOU ARE ONLY PUTTING CHAINS ON THEM!

BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT IT FROM THEM.

BUT I MUST STAY HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MATTER WITH ROLYA MEANS.

IT'S ALL...

...NOT THAT BAD. I WAITED 18 YEARS FOR THE NEWS OF HIS DEATH AND NOW HE LIVES!

SOMEONE MUST TAKE CARE OF THE LAND HERE.

...I SURELY WILL NOT BE ALIVE ANY MORE.

BUT I WANT THEM TO SEE THAT I LIVED!

...WHEN BOTH OF THEM RETURN...

AND WHEN THEY...

YOU NEED NOT FEAR.

I'VE TALKED TO SOME PEOPLE...

NOT AT ALL AT THE MOMENT.

ARE THEY STILL BOTHERING YOU?

AND THE BUREAU-CRATS?

HE KNOWS HOW MUCH HE OWES HIS OLD INSTRUCTOR...

DIMITRIOV OF THE FSB IS A PROPER, UPRIGHT MAN.

AND THIS IS HIS INSTRUCTOR...

DIMITRIOV ?

A GENERAL IN THE FSB, EVEN HIGHER IN RANK THAN RACHMANIN WHO ARRESTED YOU.

MY GUESTS ARE IMMUNE!

...SHE FLEW A YAK-3!

IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR...

THAT USED TO BE MY NAME.

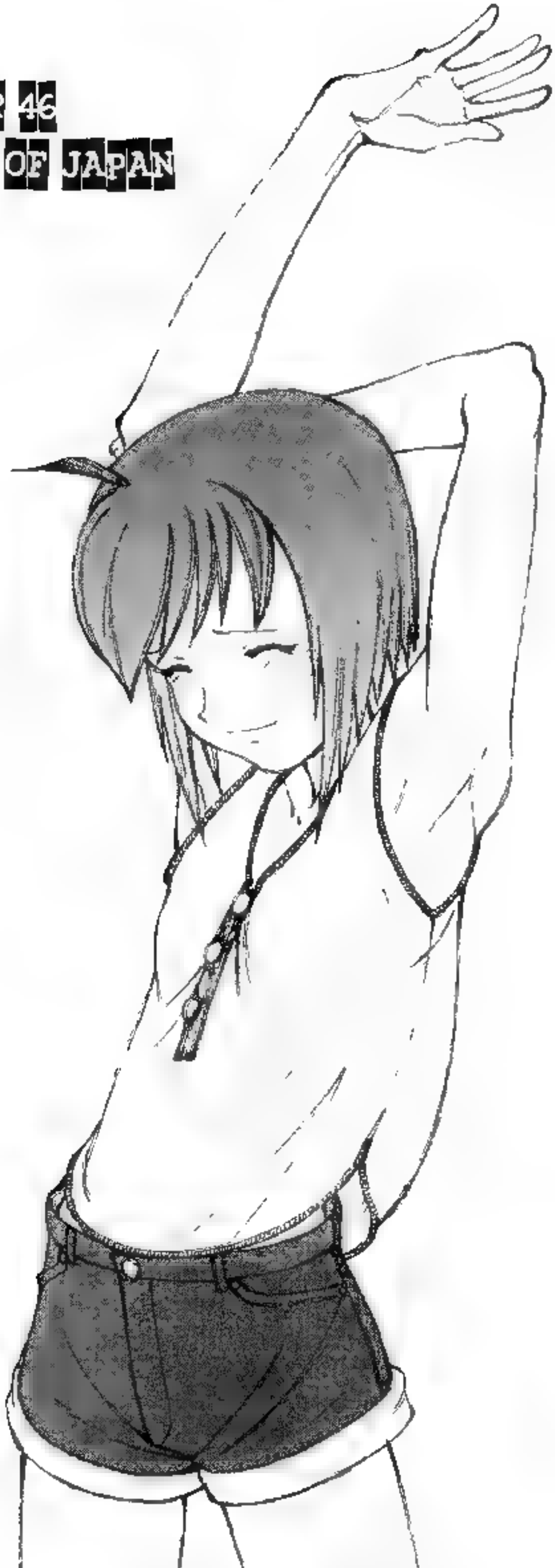
THE FAMOUS ...?!

INNA IVANOVA ?!

Wah! Inna Ivanova shook my hand! I can't believe it!

LET ME MAKE YOU ALL SOME TEA FIRST!

CHAPTER 46
A CHILD OF JAPAN



HELLO...

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ブォ
ブォ

I FEEL GREAT!

YO!

EH? WHAT?

...

WHEN I DO SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS COMPLAIN!

YOU'RE DOING FINE BY YOURSELF WITHOUT THE CAST!!

PFFT. AS IF YOU'VE EVER DONE ANYTHING FOR HER!

I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SPORTS PRACTICE FOR A MONTH!

PERFECT!

UNTIL THEN, TAKE IT EASY HERE!

WHEN YOUR FATHER COMES BACK, YOU'LL BE ALL BETTER!

I'M JUST WORRIED WHEN DAD IS ALONE!

YOU PRACTICALLY FORCED HOSHIMARU ON HIM!

WELL...

I WONDER HOW YOUR FATHER'S DOING IN RUSSIA?

HOPEFULLY HOSHIMARU IS REALLY HELPING HIM.

I'M GOING BACK FOR A SHORT WHILE...

...TO PICK UP SOME STUFF...

...AND AIR SOME THINGS.

SHOULD I DRIVE YOU THERE?

OH YES!

WELL, WE'LL BE GOING THEN.

NORIO, YOU STAY HERE.

SO!

FROM TODAY ONWARDS I'M COOKING!

お一
いい
よ
ね

I COULD TAKE YOU THERE WITH VAGINA DENTATA.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE PUSHY...

...
CLEAN THE KITCHEN UP, WILL YOU?

AH...

GET ON.

WAH!

ブオオオ

AH...

TAKEO!

SORRY, TODAY IS NOT GOOD...

I'VE BEEN WAITING 2 HOURS FOR YOU!

NO WAY! YOU PROMISED!

ANOTHER TIME!

BUT TODAY...

NO, NO...

YOU LIED ABOUT LOVING ME!

...I'M BORROWING THE BICYCLE, OKAY?

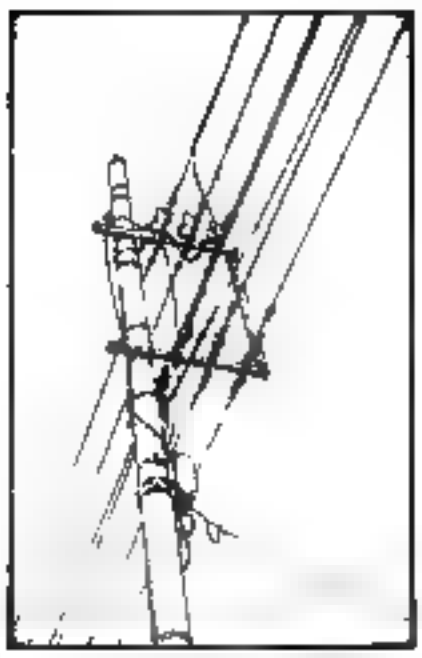
...ISN'T TAKING ME AFTER ALL...

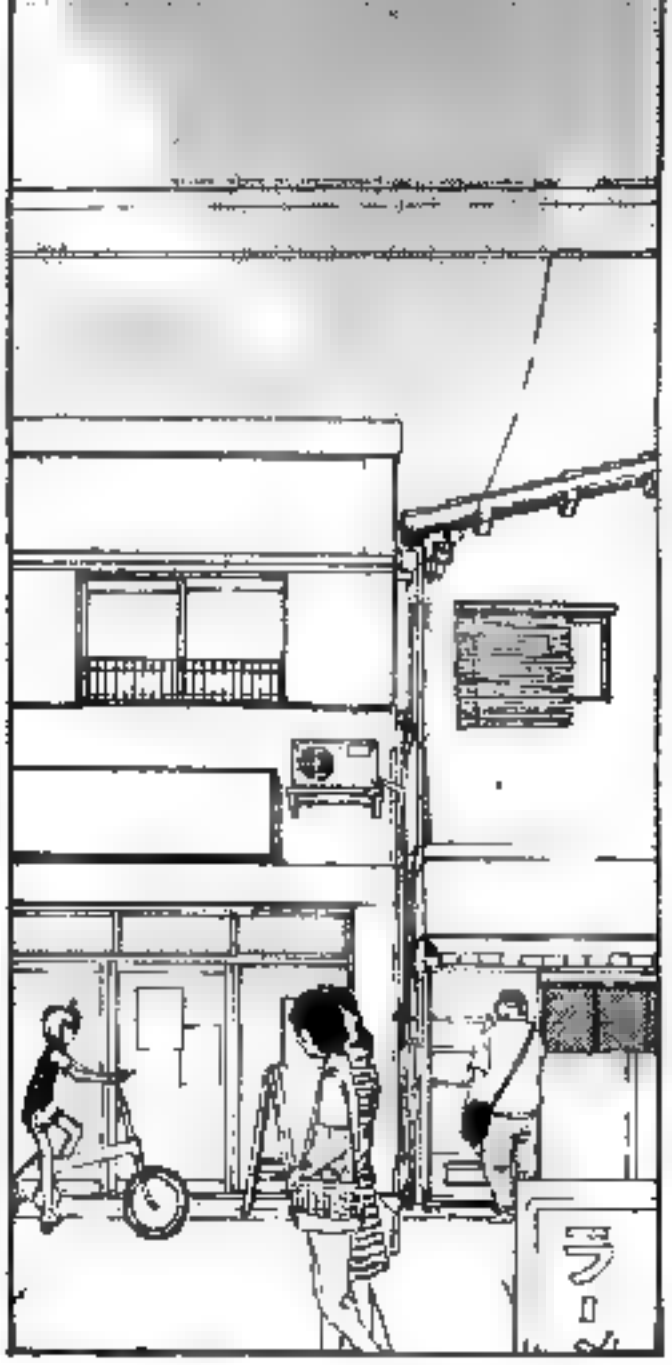
NORIO, TSURU-MARU...

...AN IMPORTANT JOB...

I SUDDENLY GOT A JOB...

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME AT ALL, DO YOU?




ラーメン

AH...

NONSENSE!

TAKAYA! DON'T ALWAYS MAKE GIRLS CRY!

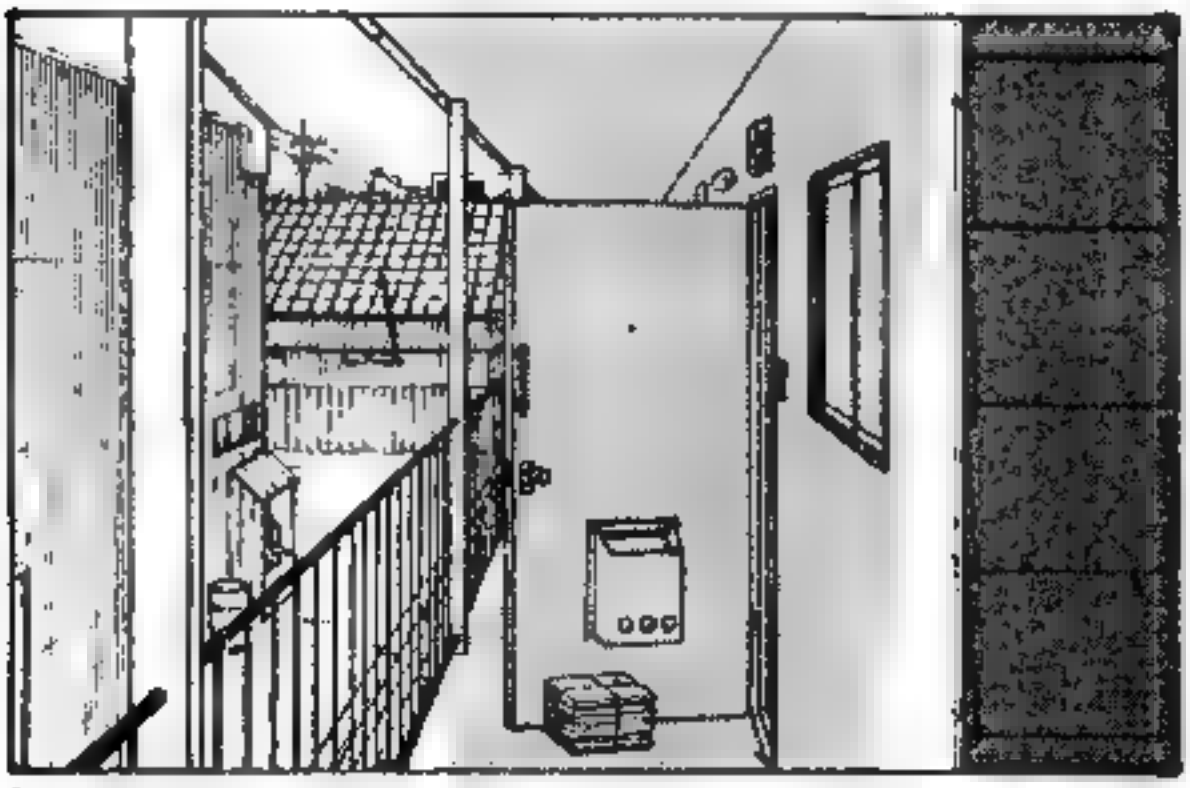
THEY'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

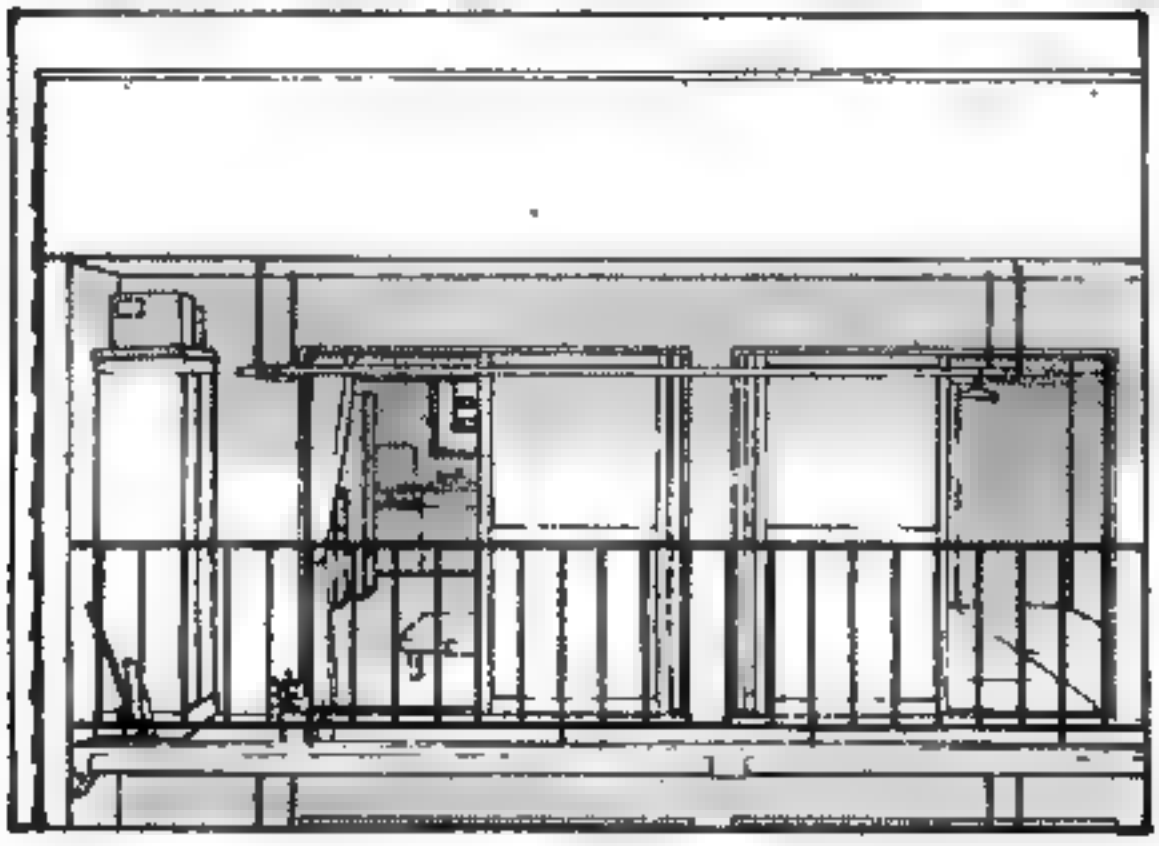
WHY ARE YOU...
...CRYING NOW?

SEE YOU LATER!

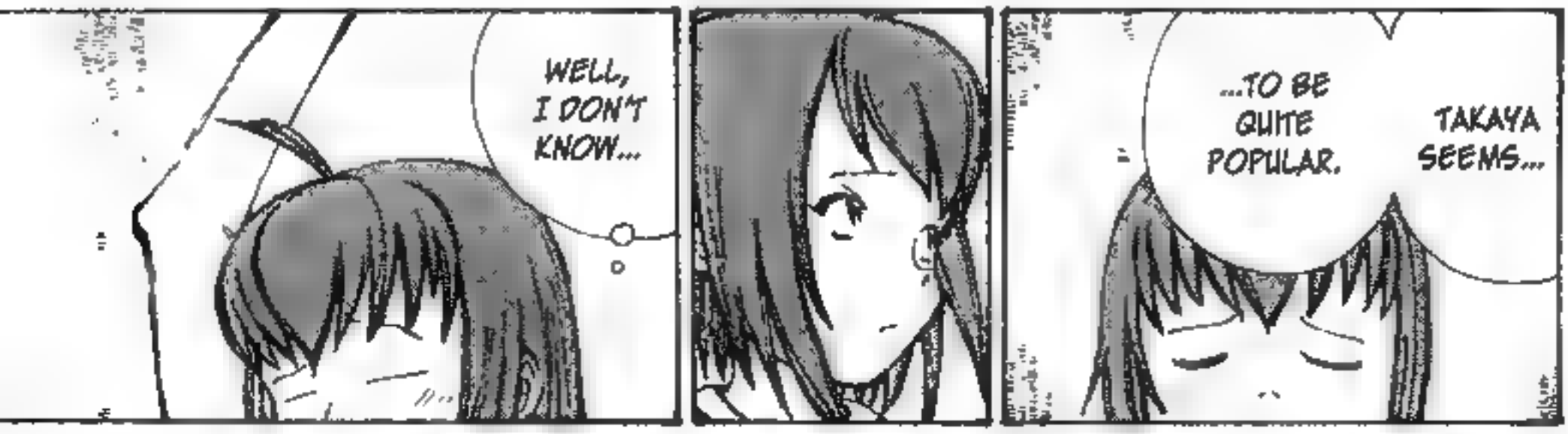
BOOHOO

HH...





FOOO...
ARE THEY STILL THERE?


WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
...TO BE QUITE POPULAR.
TAKAYA SEEMS...

NO, NONSENSE!

...IN LOVE WITH HER?

ARE YOU...

Uh...

STOP IT! SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

AND WHO WAS THAT THEN?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS!

YES.

ARE THEY GONE?

SHIINA...

YOU'RE POPULAR...

TAKAYA...

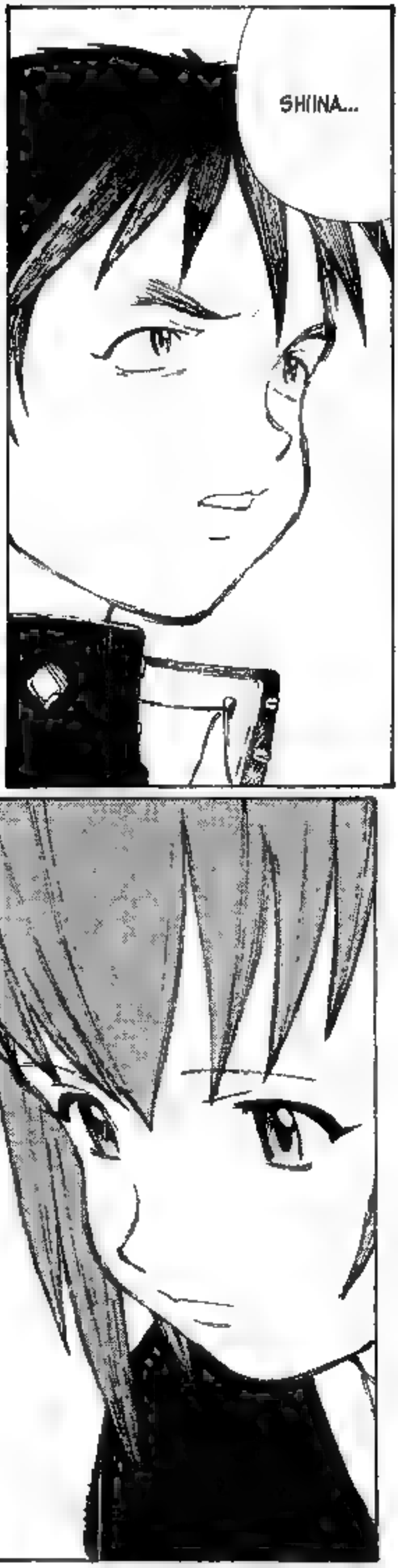
BUT YOU...

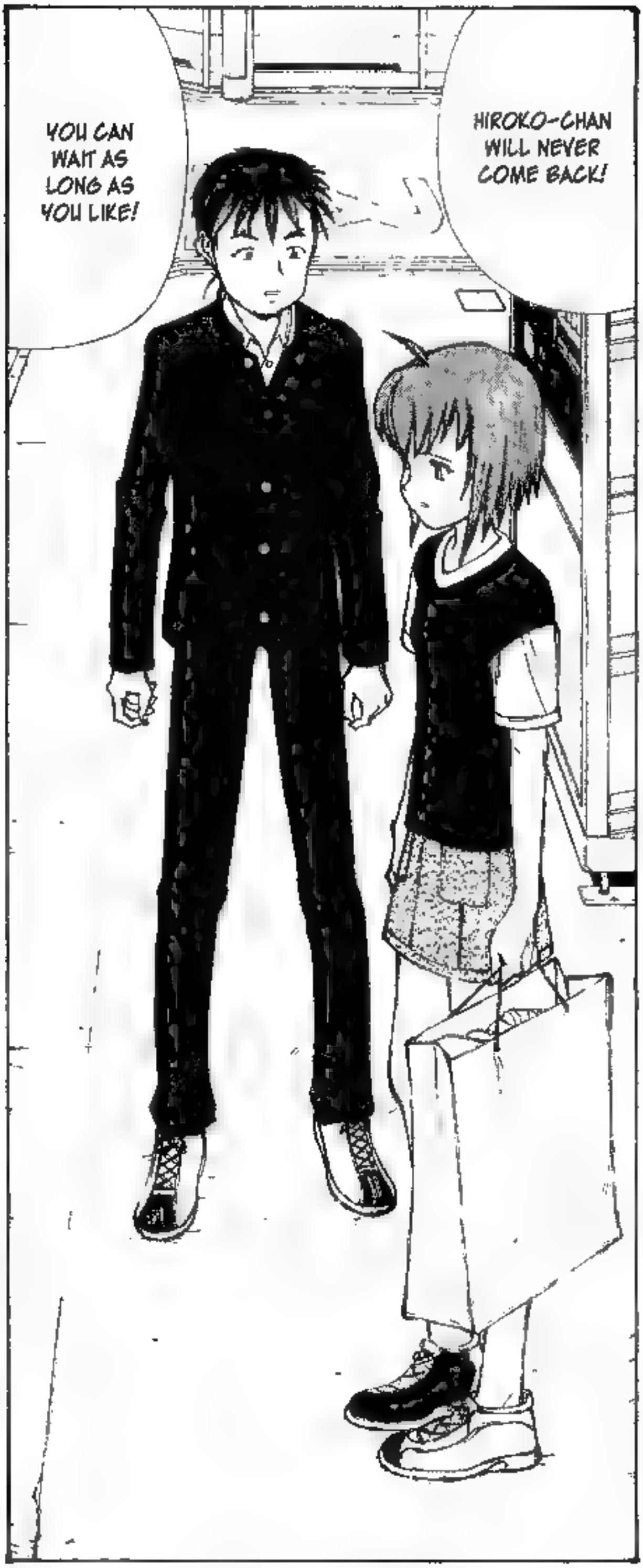
...LIKE KAIDZUKA TOO...

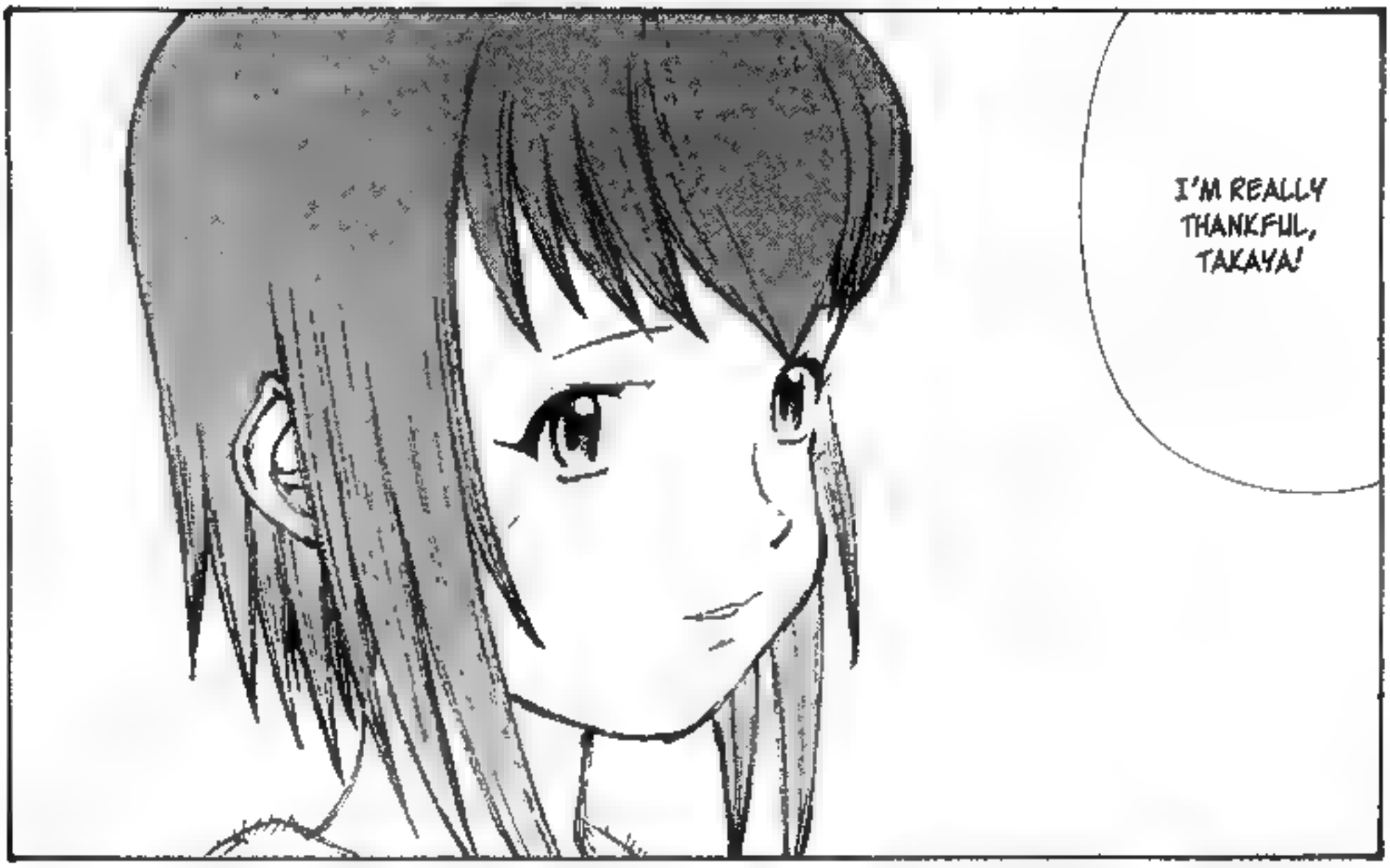
YOU'VE BEEN STRANGE LATELY!

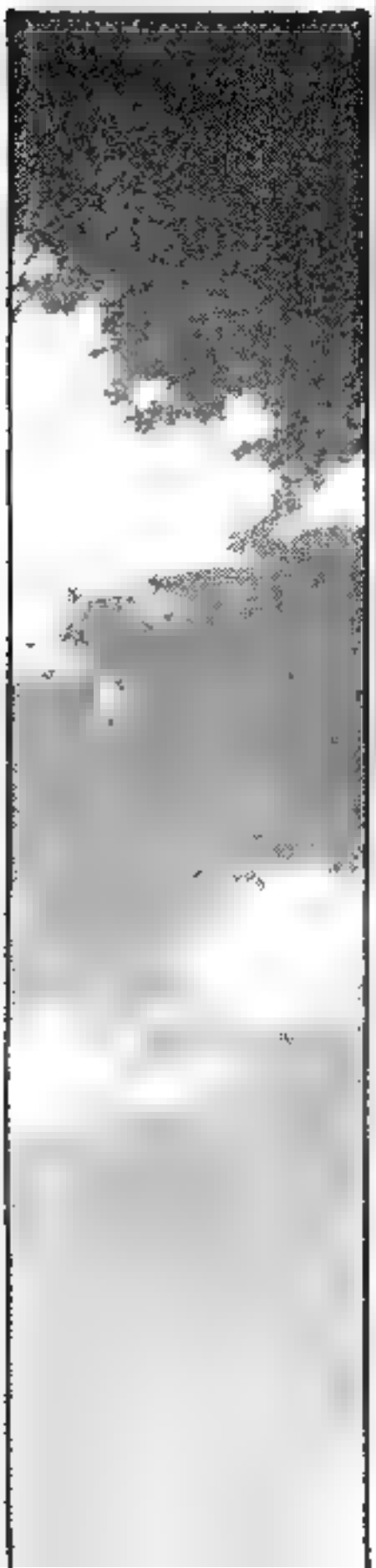
...I TOLD YOU, DON'T GET INVOLVED.

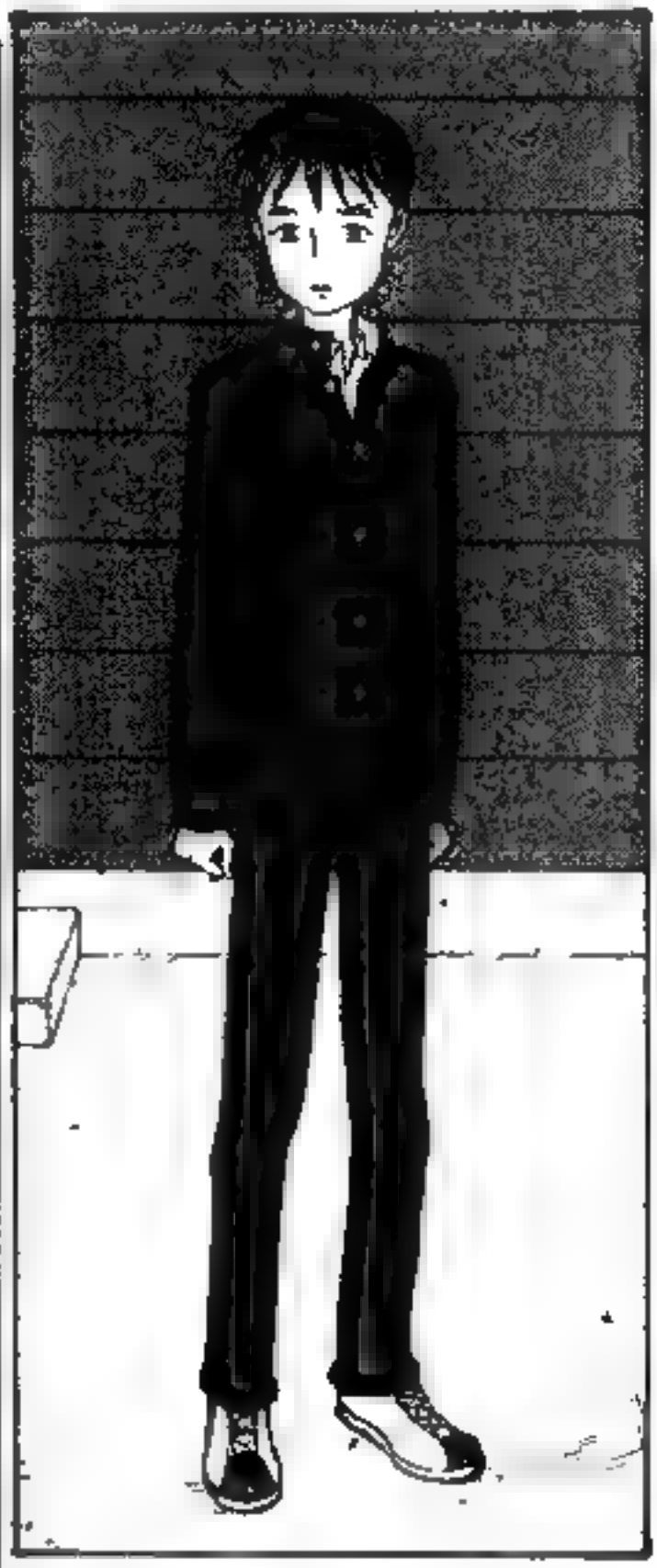
TAKAYA ...


SHIINA...


YOU CAN WAIT AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!
HIROKO-CHAN WILL NEVER COME BACK!


I'M REALLY THANKFUL, TAKAYA!





THANKS FOR CALLING.

CIAO.

TO HIS OWN PLEASURE, I ASSUME...

HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.

WHERE IS TSURUMARU?

HELLO! AND THANKS FOR THE BIKE.

SORRY ABOUT JUST NOW, SHIINA.

TSURUMARU?!

SORRY, BUT YOU'RE WRONG!

HE'S PROBABLY NOT COMING BACK TONIGHT.

DINNER COMES AFTER THAT!

OFF TO THE BATH WITH YOU!

HMM?!

OF PERFUME!

SNIFF SNIFF

YOU STINK!

SURE.

ARE YOU COMING IN TOO?

OH COME ON! IT'S OKAY!

PUT ME DOWN!

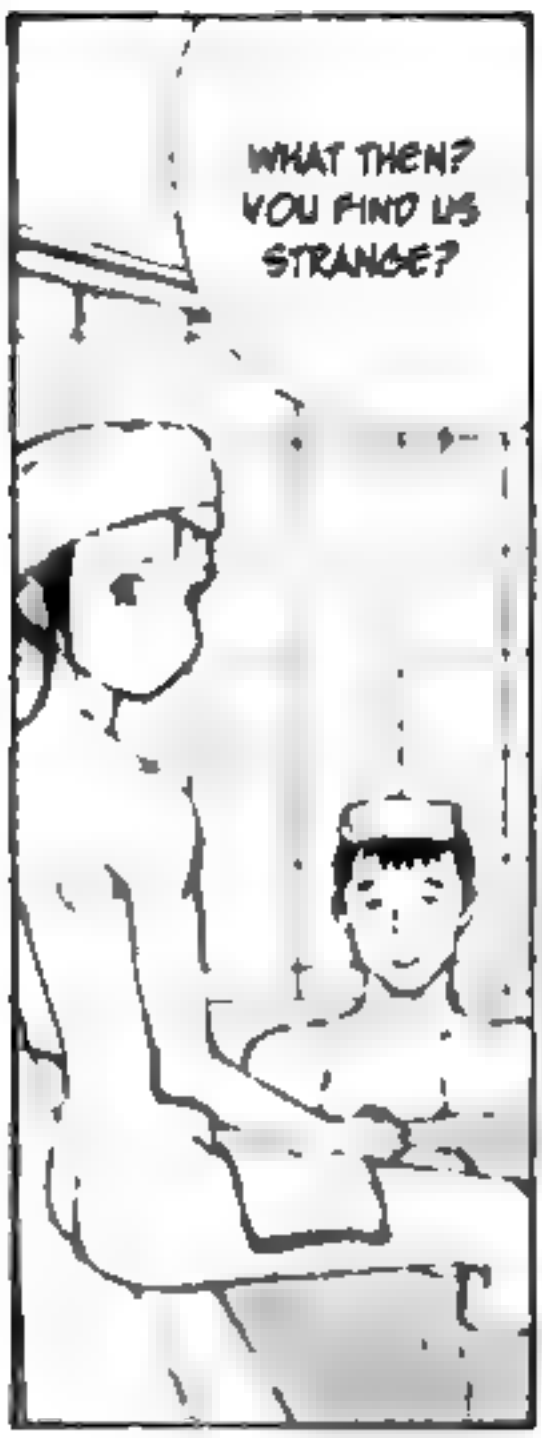
DON'T BE SUCH A WUSS!

Let's do a bit of nudist activity!

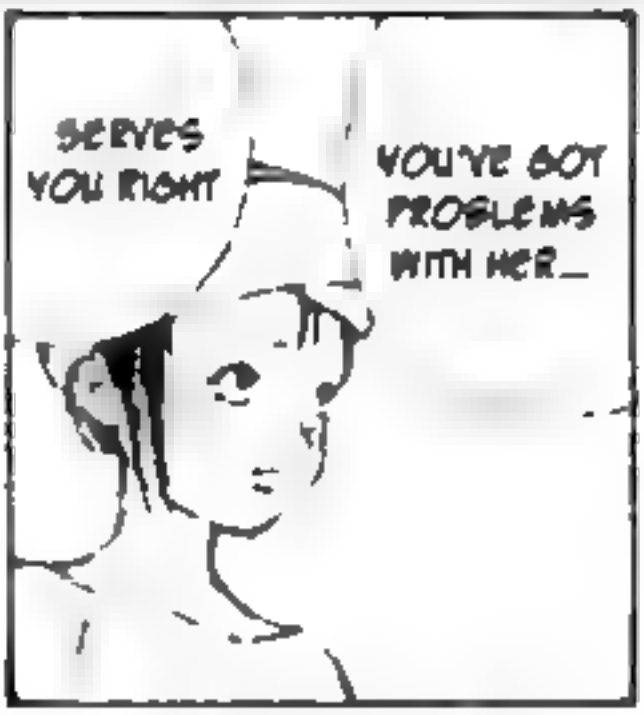
NO THANKS!

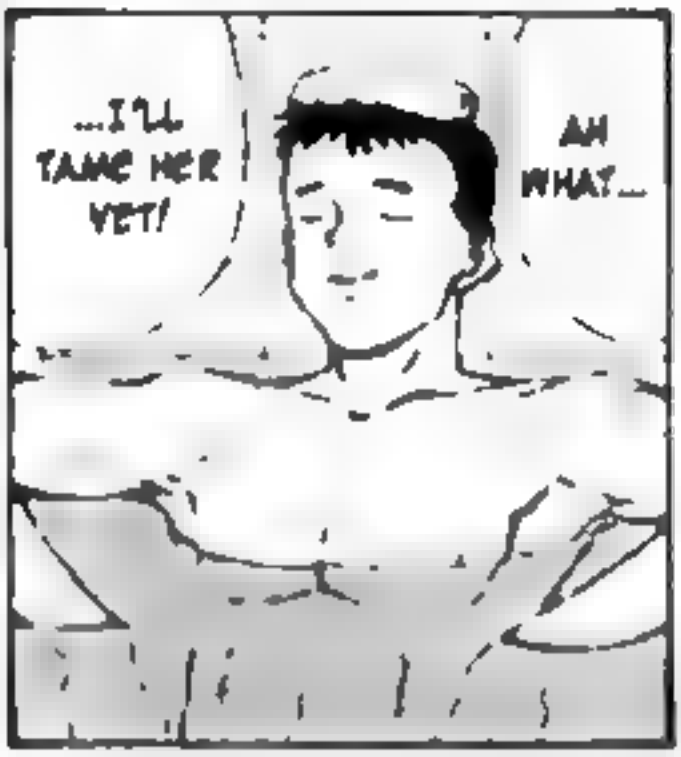
HUH?

YOU TOO NORIO?


WHAT THEN? YOU FIND US STRANGE?

BOYS ARE STRANGE.


SERVES YOU RIGHT
YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS WITH HER...


...I'LL TAME HER YET!
AH WHAT...

NO, NOT SPECIFICALLY ...

YOU'RE FINALLY DEVELOPING AN INTEREST IN BOYS?

HUH?

IT'S THE SAME DAMN THING!

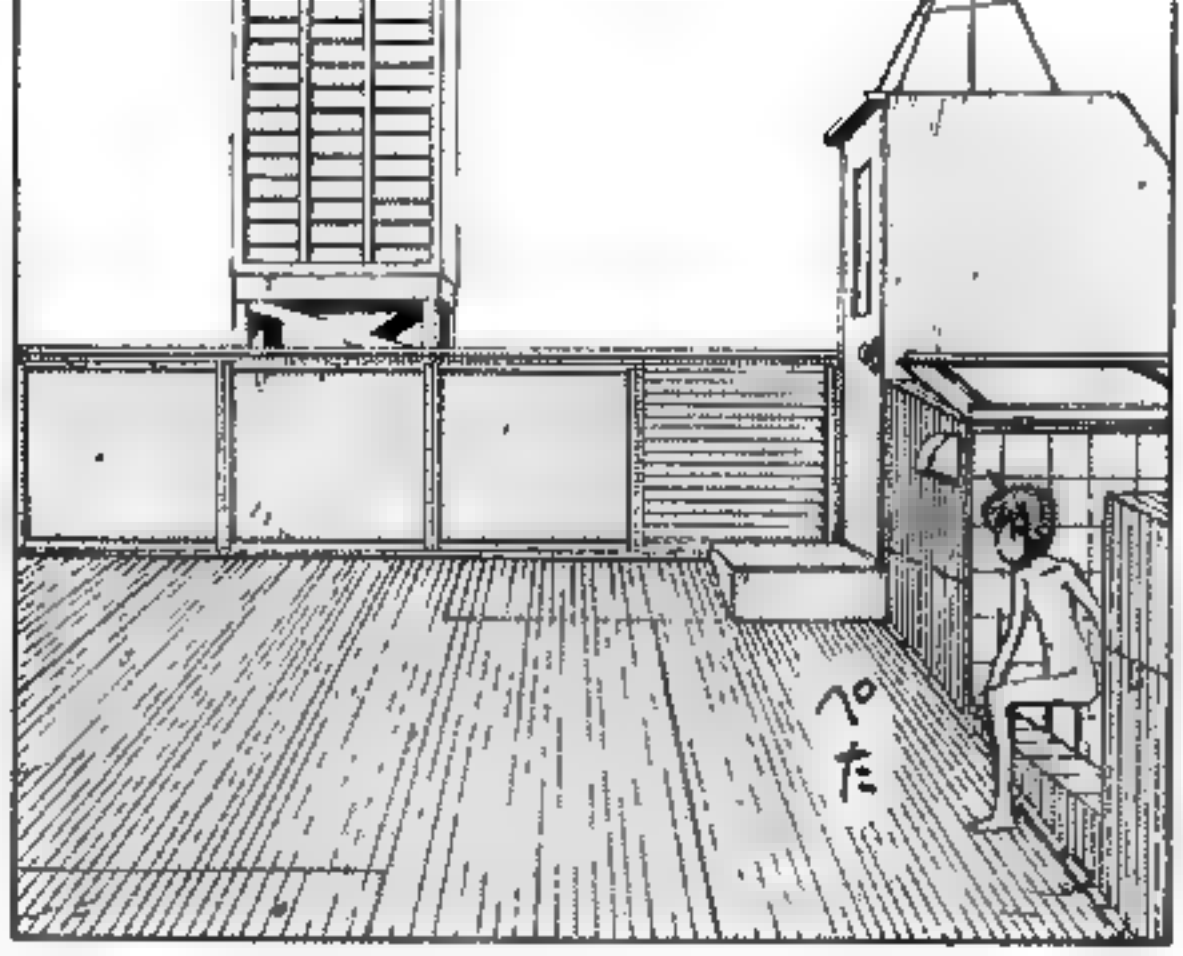
FOR HIM IT'S ALL ABOUT REPRODUCTION, NOT LOVE.

BETTER DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH TSURUMARU.

YOU'RE A MONSTER!

THAT SOUNDS CONVINCING FROM THE MOUTH OF A FAG...

NONSENSE!



SHIINA!

OH...
PEOPLE CAN SEE YOU FROM BELOW!

I ASSUME YOU'VE NOTICED IT TOO.

...A PROPER DINNER...

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...

SHIINA SURE TREATS YOU WELL!

す

OR MAYBE NOT ON PURPOSE.

I'VE REALLY TRIED EXTRA HARD TO BEHAVE DISGUSTINGLY TO TRY TO AVOID IT!

YOU ARE SHIINA'S FATHER AND HER SON...

...BUT NOT HER LOVER!

BUT YOU AREN'T REALLY...?!

AT ANY RATE YOU'VE SUCCEEDED GRANDLY!

SHE'S GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY.

DON'T WORRY.

TSURU-MARU!

DON'T GET ANY STUPID IDEAS!

むにゃ

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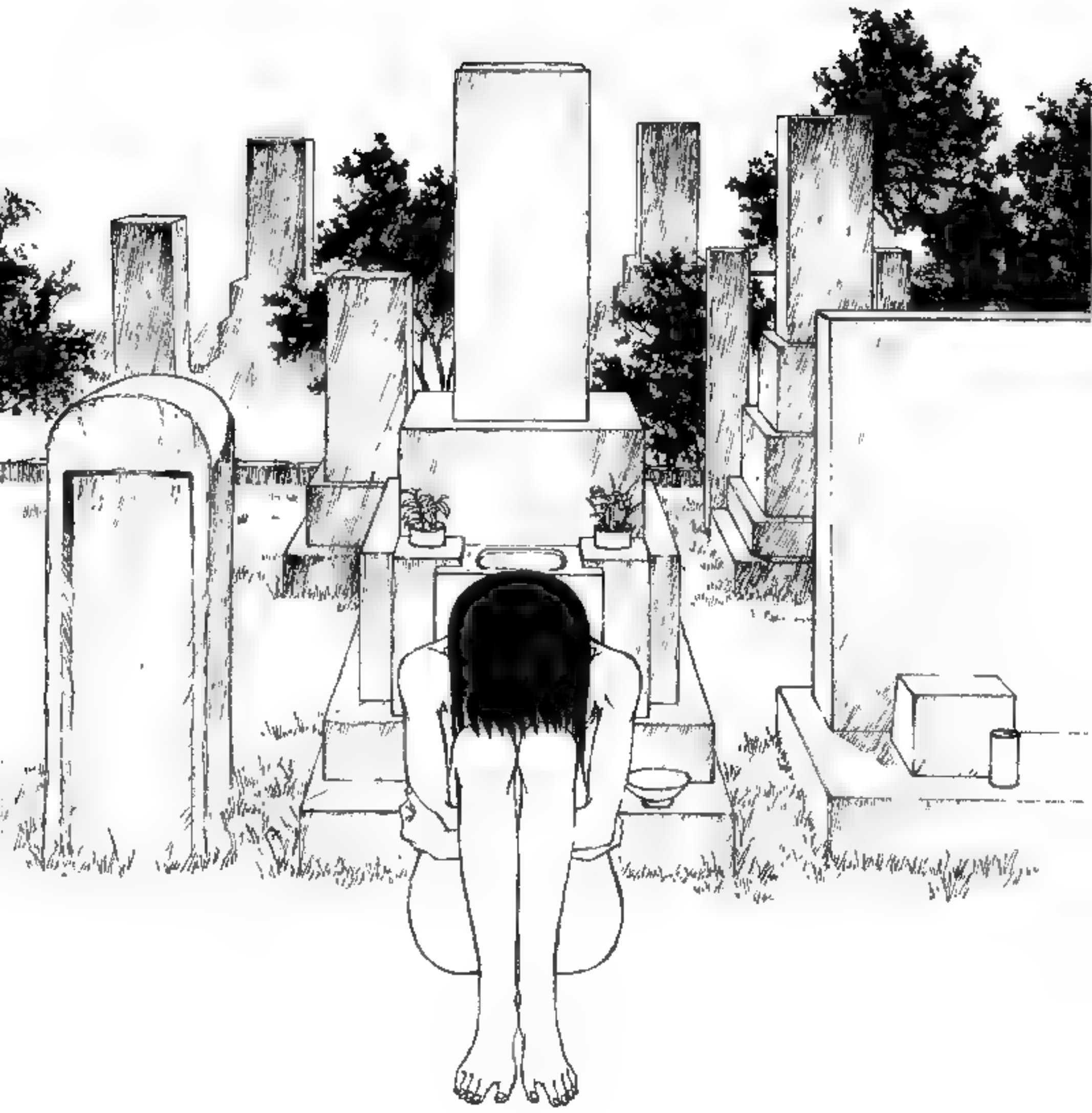
AND UNTIL THEN...

...LET HER ENJOY HER DREAMS!

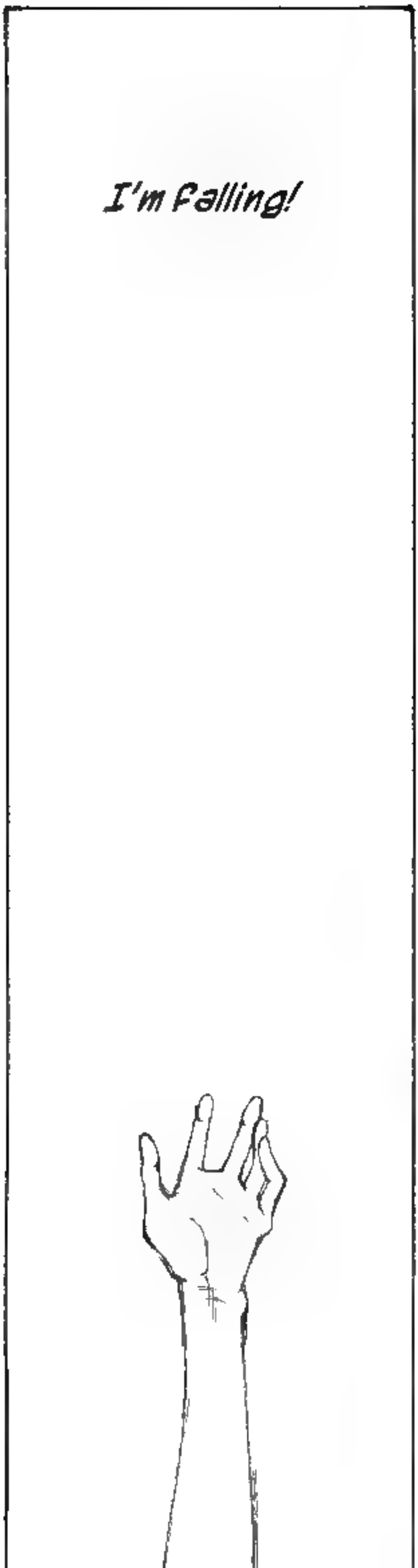
CHAPTER 47
DREAM OF FALLING

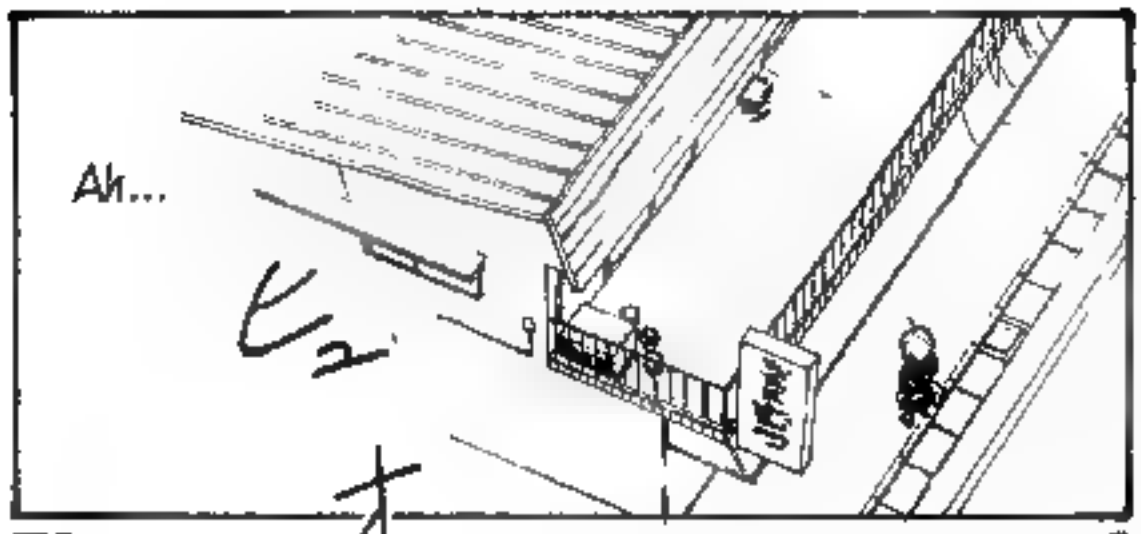


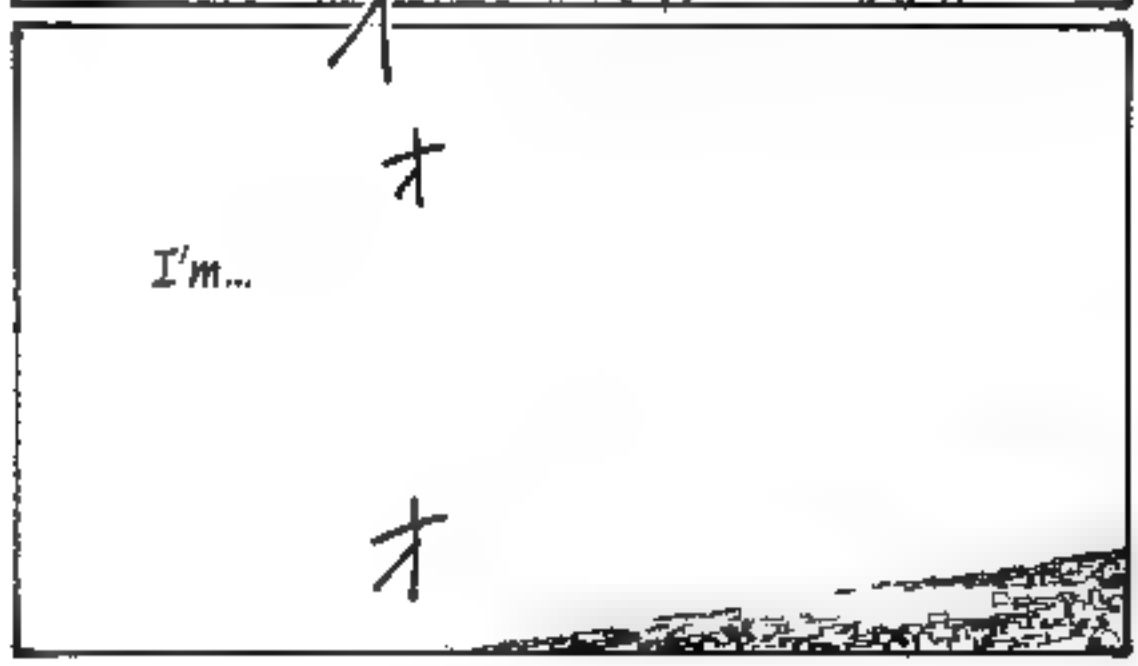
*Restaurant Nuteu

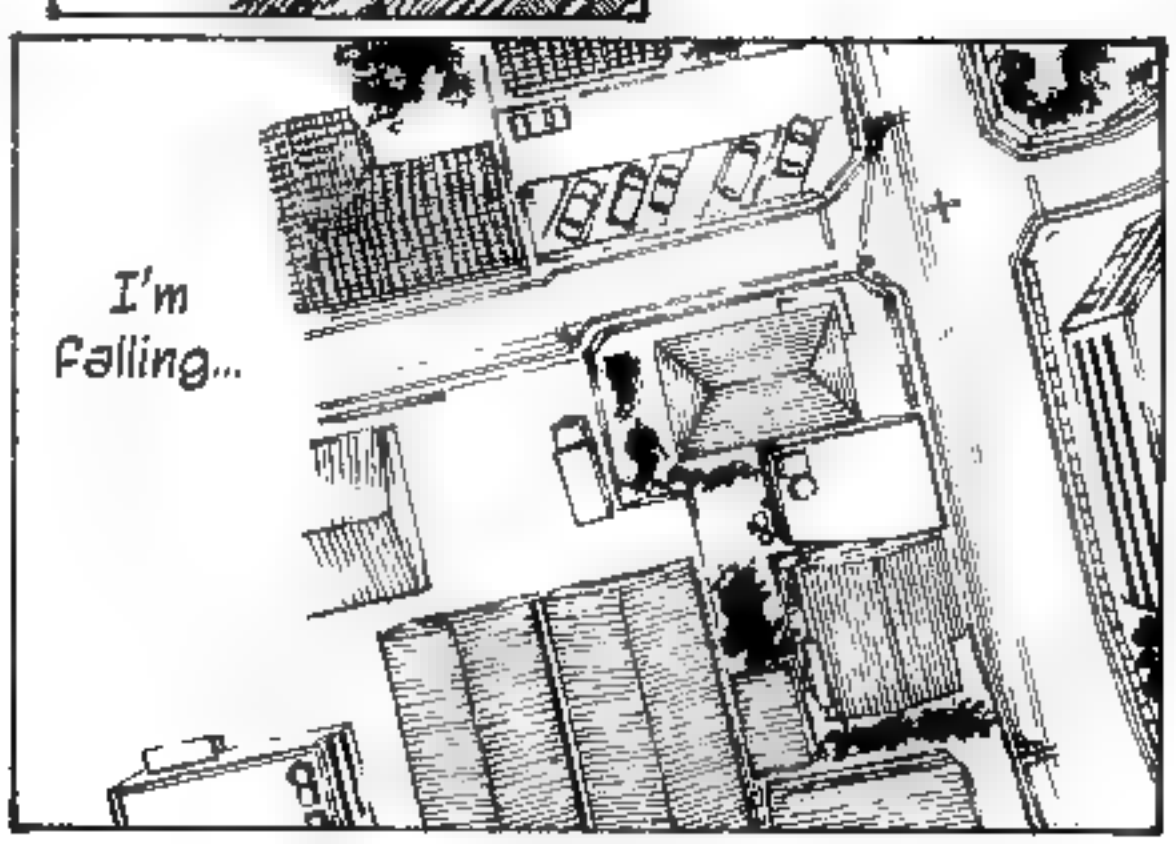
Shiina-chan...

I'm Falling!









THE RAIN IS SO LOUD WE COULDN'T SLEEP ANYWAY!

NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

DID I WAKE YOU UP?

AH, SORRY...

TELL US WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU!

IT WAS ONLY A DREAM.

I'M USED TO IT...

I HAD A NIGHTMARE ...

EVERY-THING OK?

TAP TAP TAP

YES.

THANKS.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL, WE'LL LISTEN TO YOUR STORY.

GO AHEAD!

ﾐｭ P P P

THERE ARE MANY CEMETERIES IN THIS AREA, HUH?

AFTER ALL, ROSY DAYS ARE AHEAD OF US!

DON'T BE SO CYNICAL!

OF COURSE NOT!

IS THAT AN ALLUSION TO SOME-THING?

HOW ARE YOU DOING HERE?

REALLY?

I LIVE WITH GRANDPA NOW.

AND YOU MAMA?

THE OTHER GIRLS ARE NICE TO ME.

AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE HOME TOO.

I'M...

...ADAPTING.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER ALL...

I WHILE AWAY EVERY DAY DOING NOTHING.

BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING.

GULP

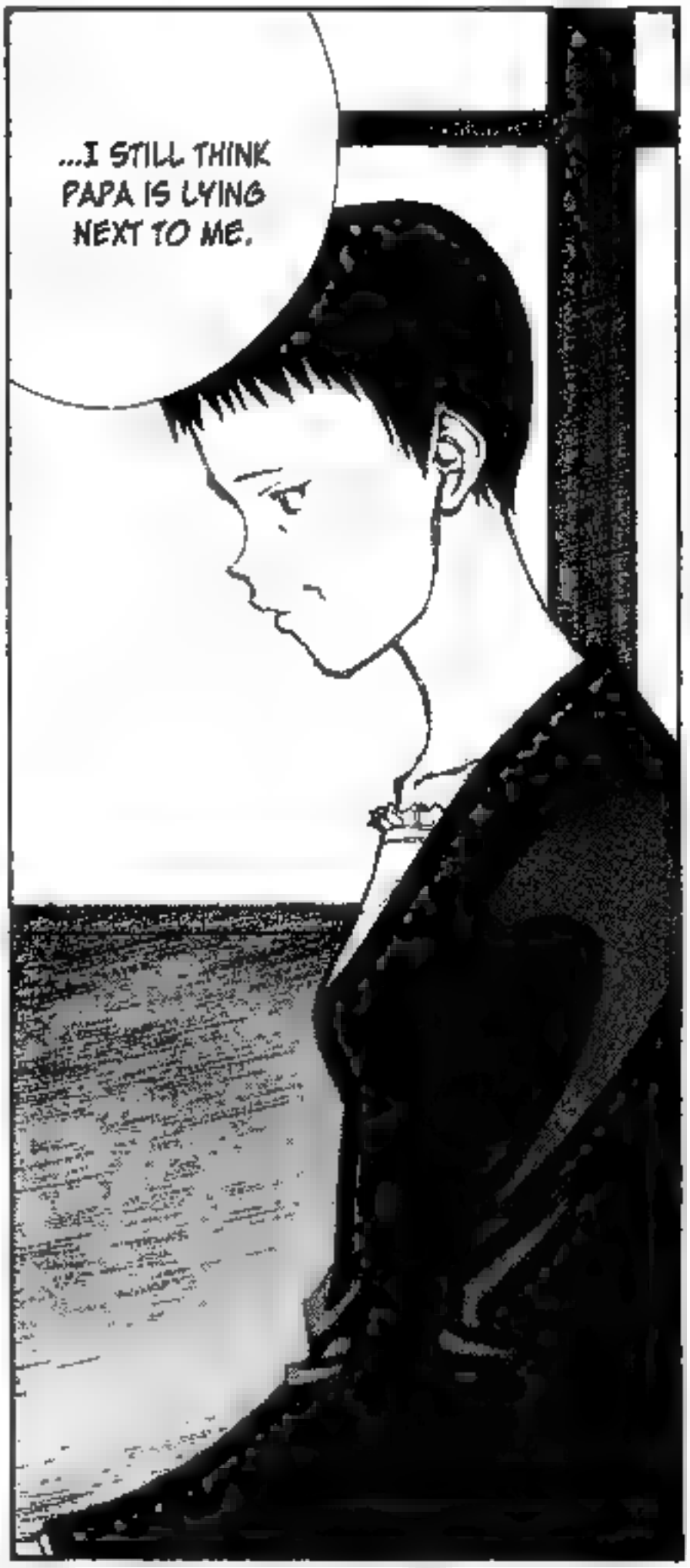
DID YOU KNOW THAT?

THERE ARE MANY CEMETERIES HERE.

WHEN I LIE DOWN AT NIGHT...

NO?

BUT HE ISN'T THERE.


...I STILL THINK PAPA IS LYING NEXT TO ME.

BECAUSE YOU KILLED HIM.

...THEN I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE KILLED SOMEBODY.

IF HE HAD BEEN SENSIBLE...

HE WASN'T VERY SENSIBLE...

...AND NEVER REALISED WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH YOU.

WELL, HE WAS FASCINATING IN SOME WAY.

YOU NEEDED SOMEBODY, HAD TO FIND SOMEBODY FAST.

AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN YOU!

IN THESE TIMES?

RESTRUCTURING OF PERSONNEL?

BUT FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HIMSELF TO...

I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU, DIRECTOR...

YES.

WHAT?

THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN.

WE'RE CONSIDERING AN EARLY RELEASE.

YES, THAT'S A SPECIAL CASE, ISN'T IT? SHE'S A GOOD CHILD...

...MIDDLE SCHOOL?

YOU KNOW AKIRA SAKURA...

...INTO A CORNER!

FORCE SAKURA...

I DON'T WANT TO BEAT AROUND THE BUSH ABOUT IT.

THE DIRECTOR OF HOME NUMBER 8 WILL BE CHANGED.

SHE IS IN HOME NUMBER 8, ISN'T SHE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

HOW...

THE EMPLOYEES WHO COME INTO CONTACT WITH HER WILL BE...

UH... BUT...

THE CHILDREN WHO GET ALONG WELL WITH HER WILL BE RELEASED.

BUT *HOW* YOU DO IT, I LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.

YOU CAN PSYCHOLOGICALLY PRESSURE SOMEONE LIKE HER, I THINK.

YOU WILL NOT LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED, OF COURSE.

WE'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD ANY PROBLEMS ARISE.

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

TELL ME NOW, ARE YOU JOKING?

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE DOUBTS, DO YOU?

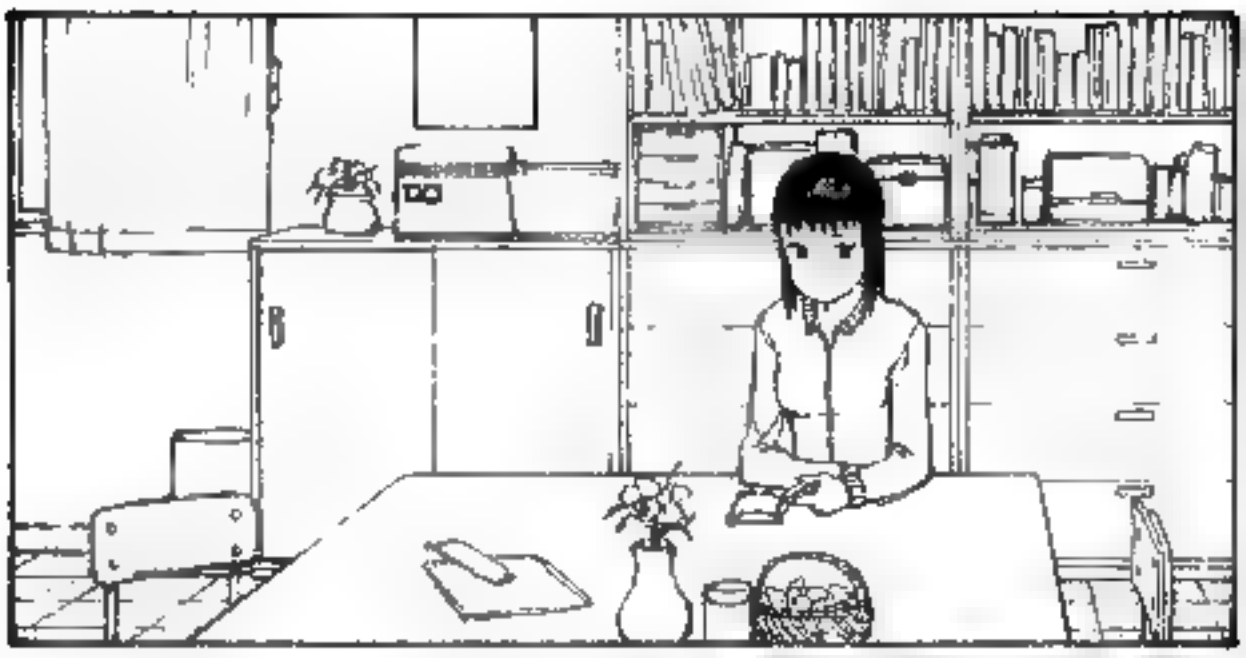
IF YOU HAVE DOUBTS...

I, UH...

GULP

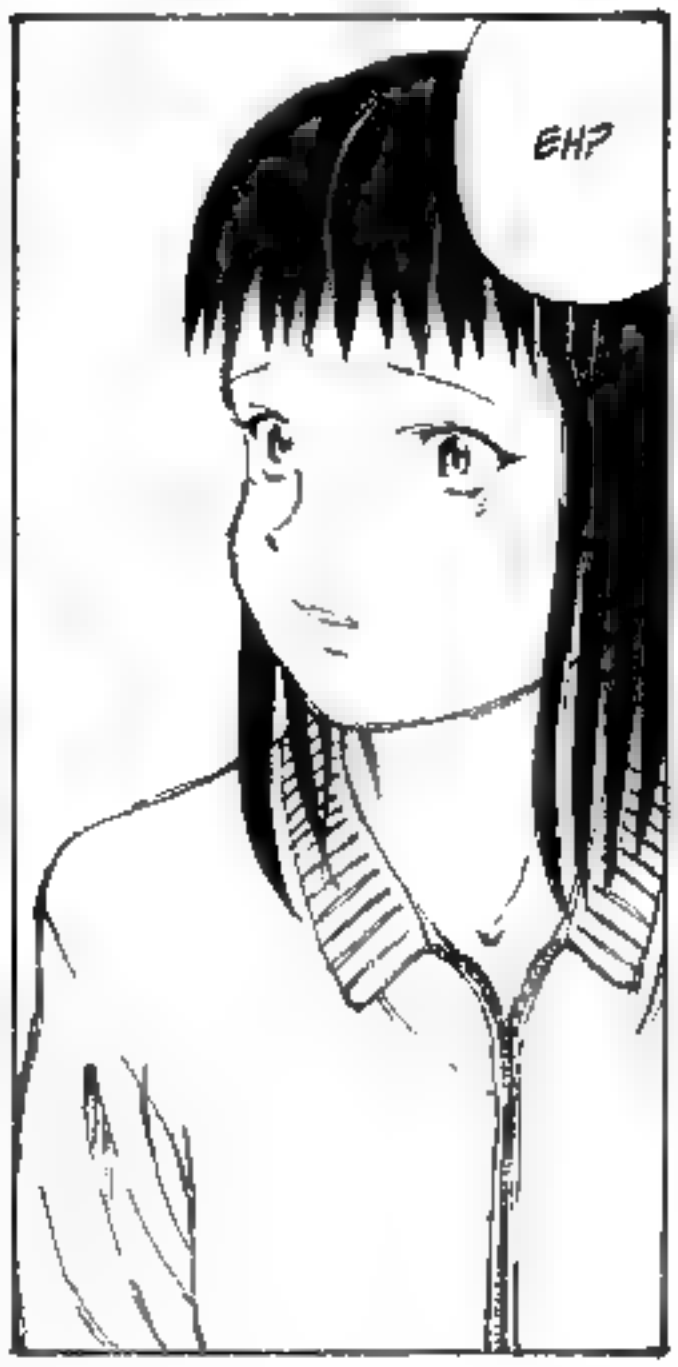
...SPEND THE REST OF YOUR SHORT LIFE IN PEACE...

AFTER ALL, YOU WANT TO...



SAKURA...

I DON'T WANT TO!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO MY PARENTS.


EH?

THEY WANT TO RELEASE ME SUDDENLY!
I DON'T KNOW WHY MYSELF.

...THEY WANT TO CHANGE MOST OF THE NURSES ...

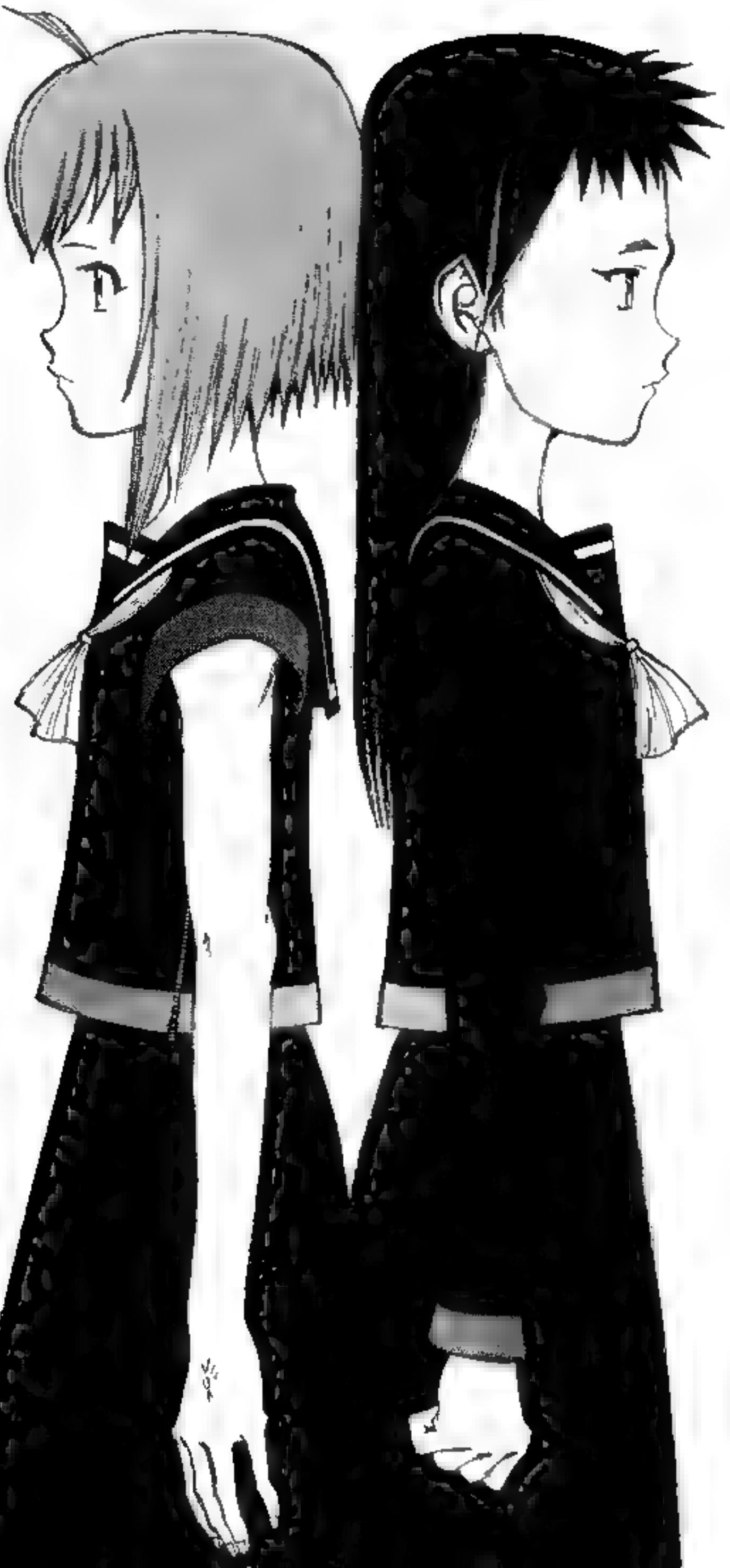
...AND THE DIRECTOR TOO.

I DON'T KNOW, I HEARD...

YOU'LL BE FINE ALONE, WON'T YOU?!

SAKURA...

CHAPTER 48
BLACK AND WHITE



MUMBLE

TOP SECRET

SPECIAL CONFERENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY BALLOONS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

...FOUND THREE!

SO, YOU HAVE...

ALL COMPLETELY REGULAR OPERATIONS!

THE RESULT OF THEIR PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIOUR!

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM, IF POSSIBLE.

WHAT ABOUT THE THREE?

...2 ARE MISSING, 2 ARE MATURING GRADUALLY.

OF THE 13 PEOPLE WE KNOW OF UNTIL NOW...

BECAUSE THEIR WAY OF THINKING...

...IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH OTHERS'.

HAHAHA!

DO YOU WANT TO ESTABLISH A PLATOON OF SUPERHUMANS?

WHY?

I THINK IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO WIN THEM OVER TO OUR SIDE...

...COULD IT BE THAT IS A PRECONDITION TO BE A BEARER OF A DRAGON CHILD?

I DON'T KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT...

TOO DEEP FOR ME!

THAT'S JUST THE SUPERFICIAL IMPRESSION.

THAT'S NOT COMPLETELY WRONG, BUT IT DOESN'T ADDRESS THE POINT EITHER.

AND MAMIKO KURI-SAN?

I'M YET TO SEE HIS DRAGON CHILD THOUGH.

TAKEO TSURUMARU FOR SURE.

TAKEO TSURUMARU-KUN AND MAMIKO KURI-SAN HAVE DRAGON CHILDS TOO, RIGHT?

ABOUT HER...

...I WILL KNOW SOON.

NO.

YOUR FATHER ISN'T BACK YET?

WHAT'S THAT, AN AFFAIR?

YOU'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR, RIGHT?

NO WAY?

WHAT, YOU'RE LIVING ALONE NOW?

WHAT?! WITH A BOY?!

WAH! NOT SO LOUD!

I'LL DROP BY AND VISIT YOU SOMETIME...

I LIVE WITH HIM, BUT NOT FOR THAT...

THAT ISN'T TRUE!

THAT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!

DROP THAT NON-SENSE!

NOW REALLY ...!

THAT ISN'T TRUE AT ALL!

AH...

HAHAHA

A GUY WITH A PERVERTED GLANCE!

WHO'S THE BOY?

TAMAI-CHAN *LOVES* THAT!

CAN YOU LIVE WITH IT?

UI-SAN!

GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME!

AH, SO LA-LA.

AND YOU?

We're going first!

YES, BUT I CAN'T COMPETE IN THE TOURNAMENT YET!

TAMAI-CHAN! SO, THE CAST HAS COME OFF?

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT SATOMI...

BUT EVERYTHING'S OK OTHERWISE.

I HAVE TO GO TO REHAB SOMETIMES.

SHE'LL PROBABLY BE EXPELLED.

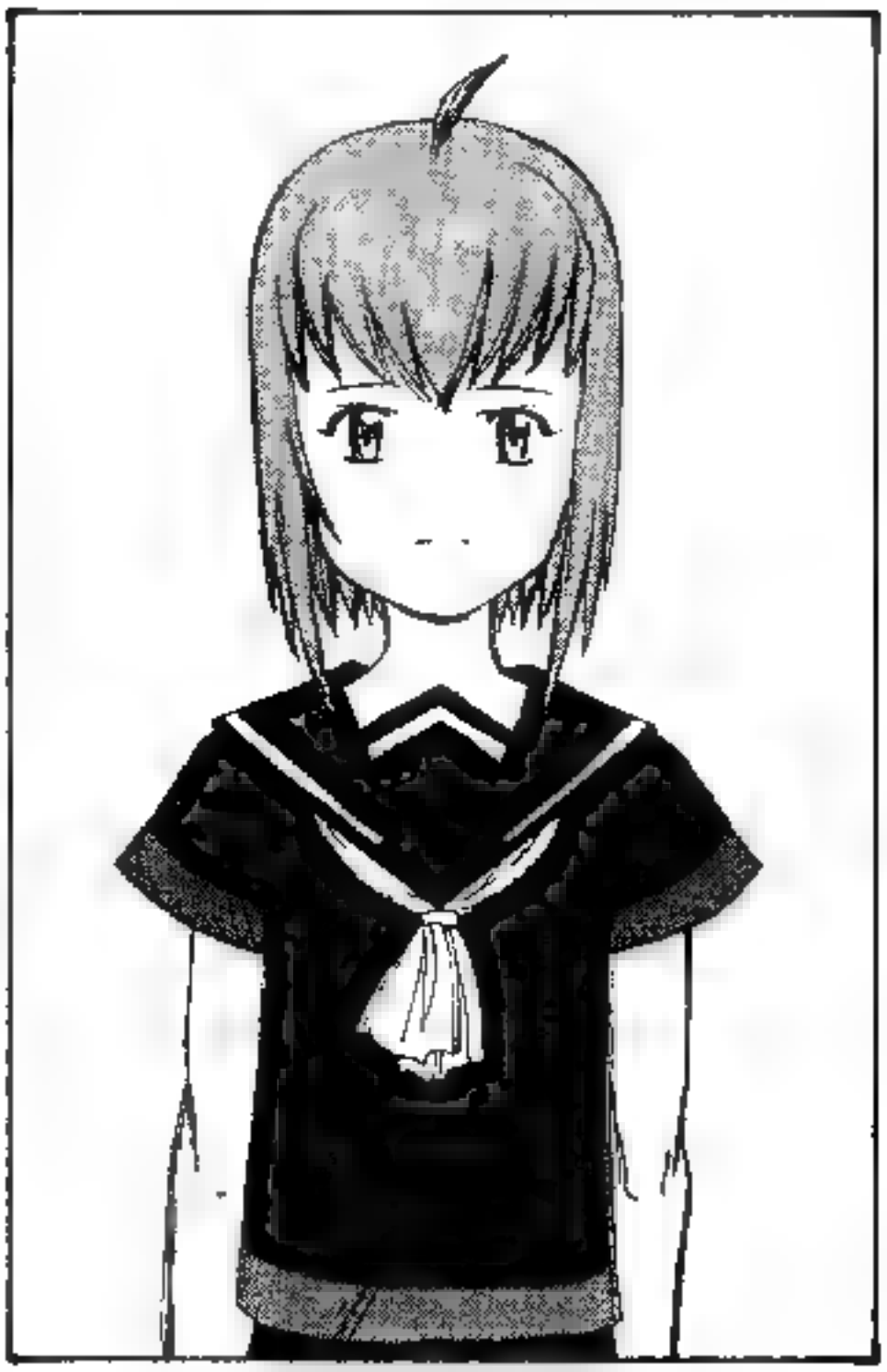
SINCE THAT TIME SHE'S KEPT SKIPPING SCHOOL.

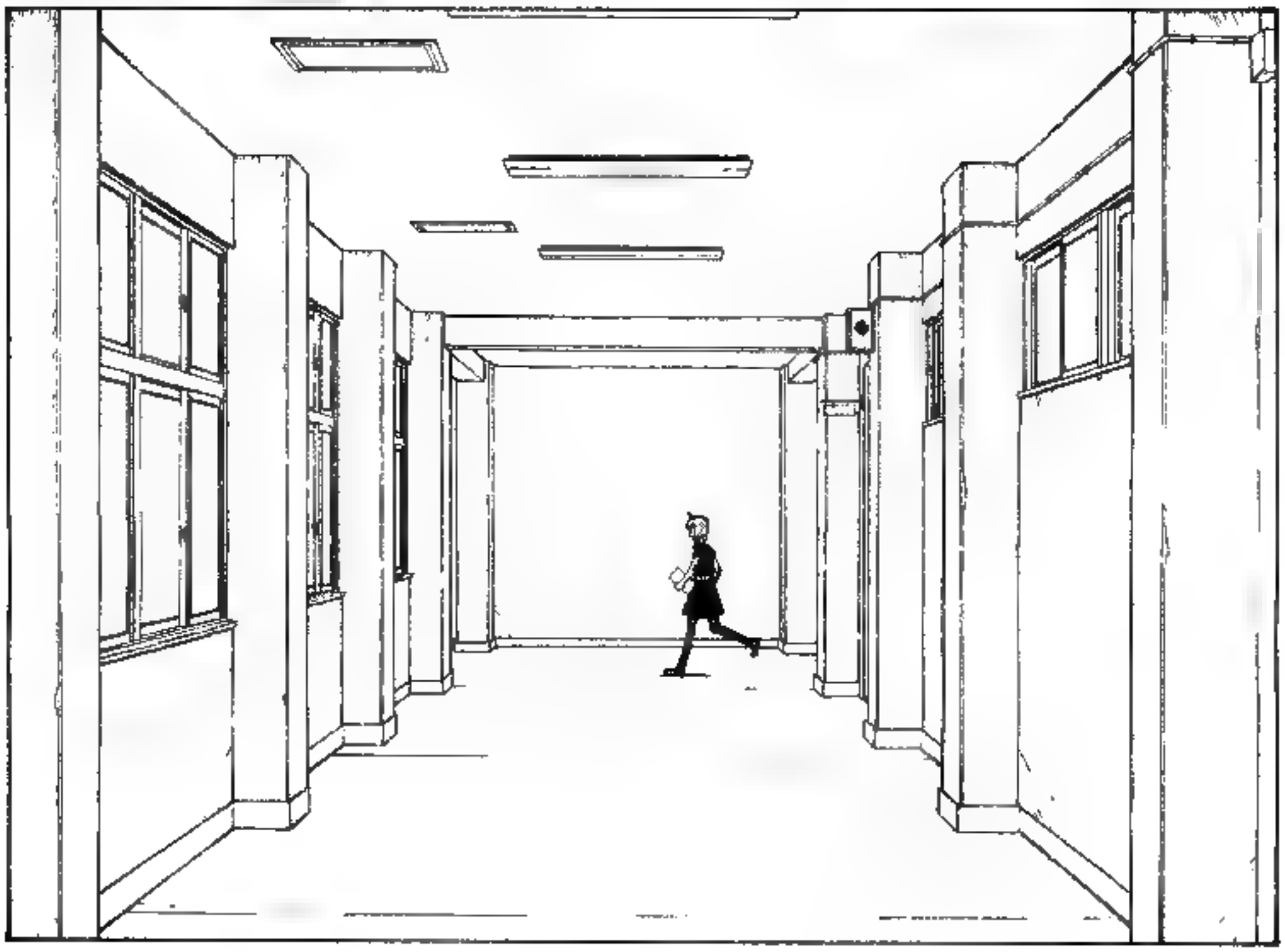
...WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER...

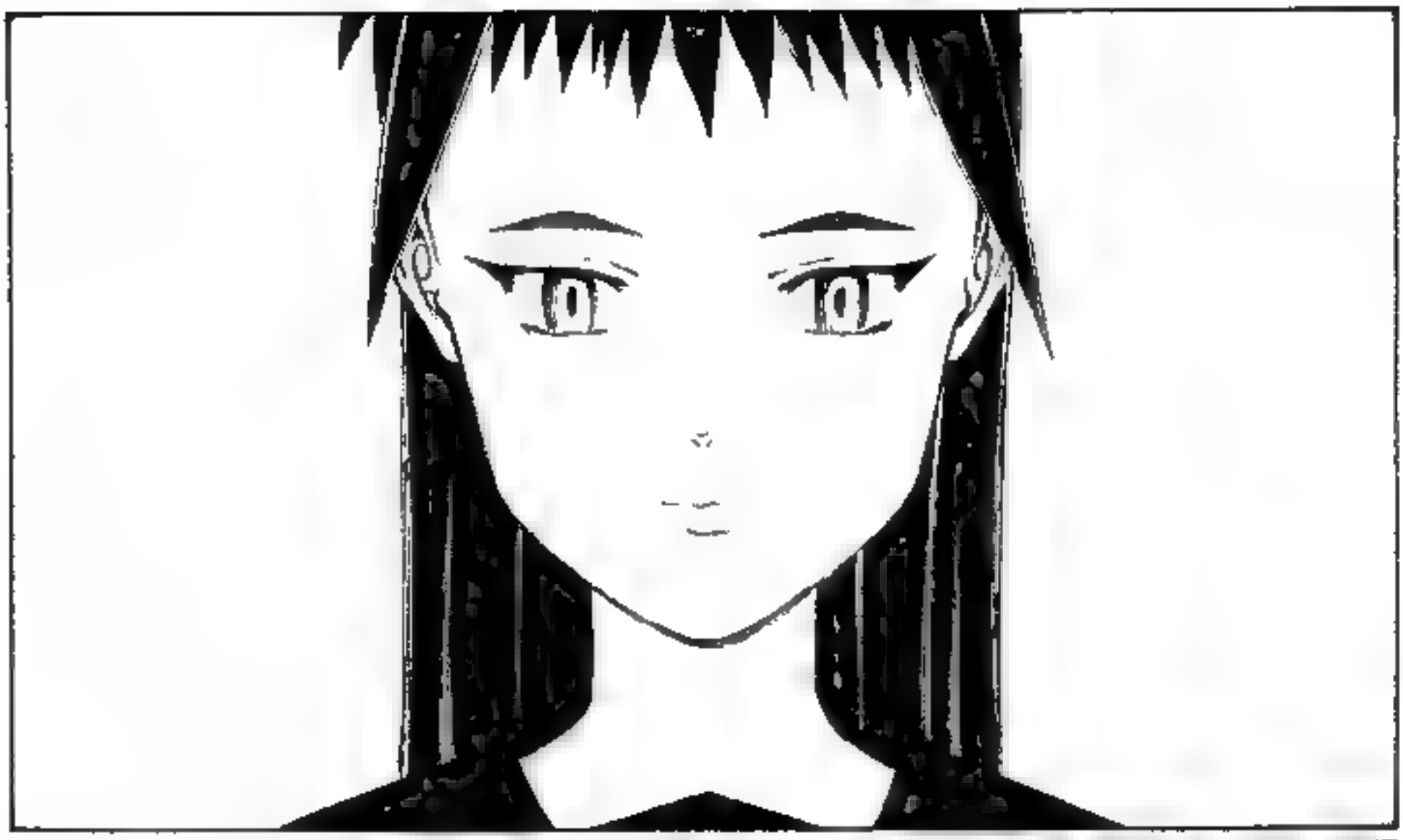
I HAVE NO IDEA...

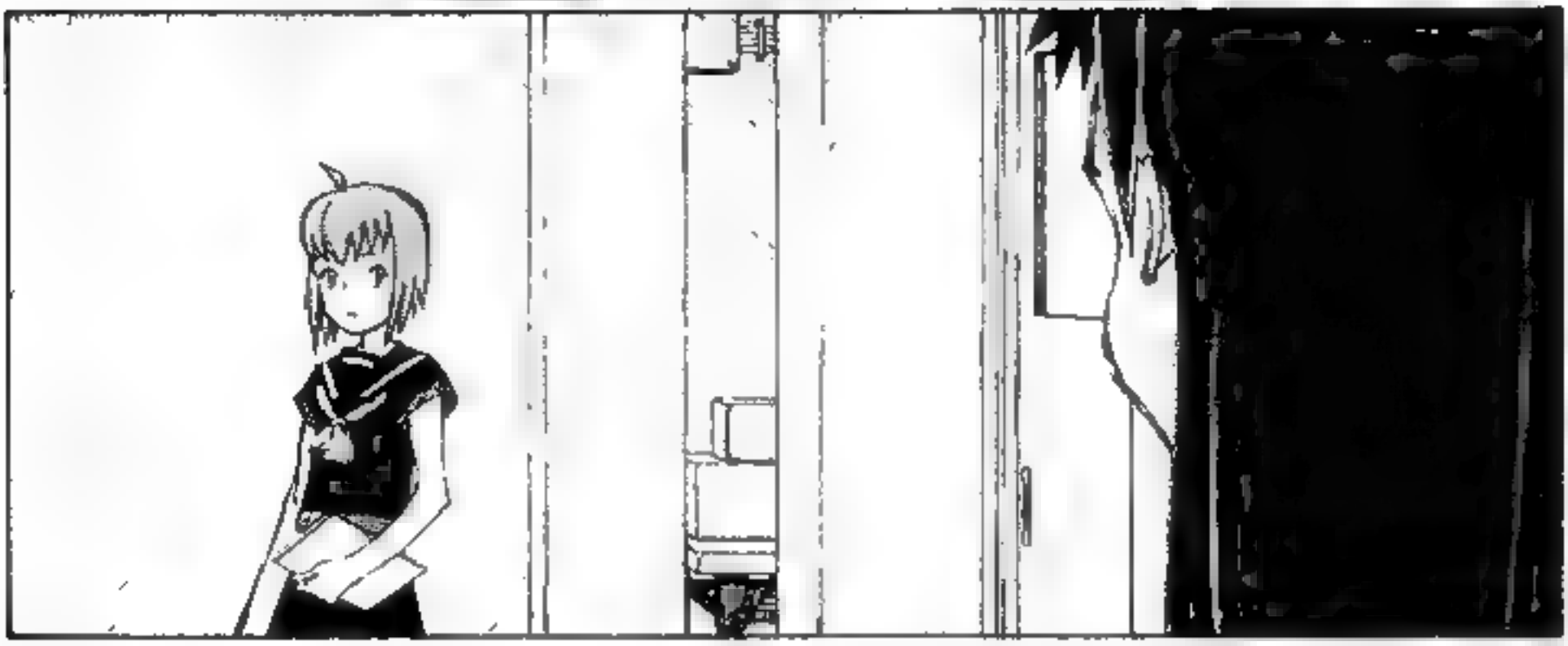
...FORGIVE HER.

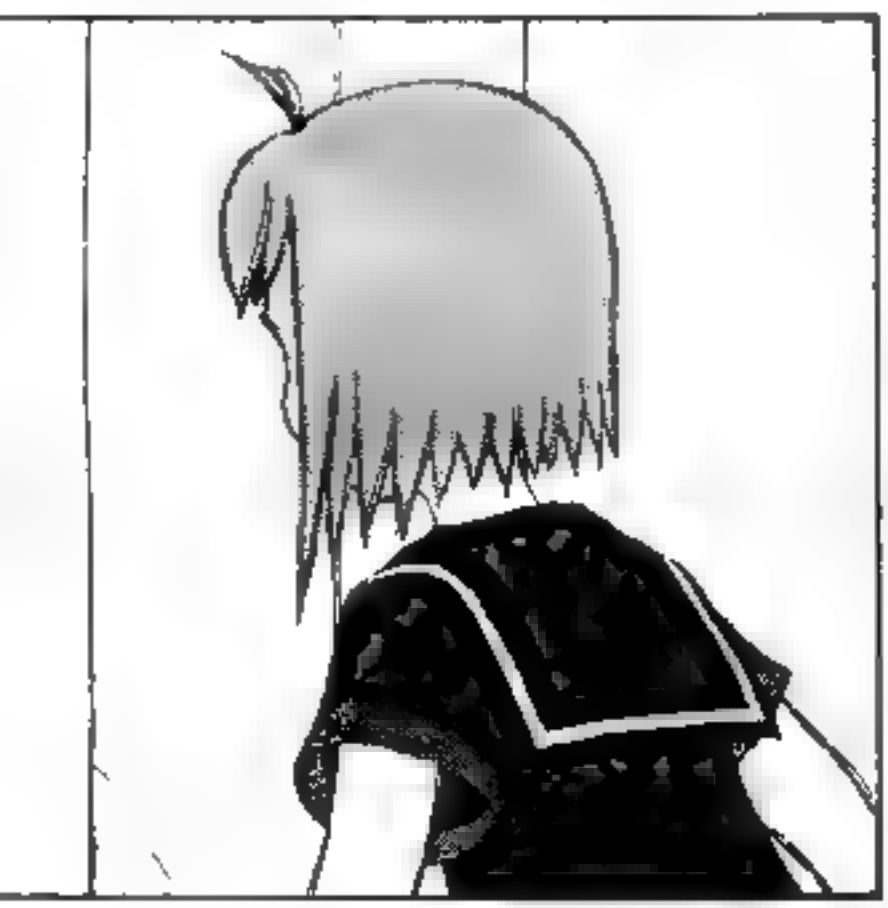
YOU MUST...

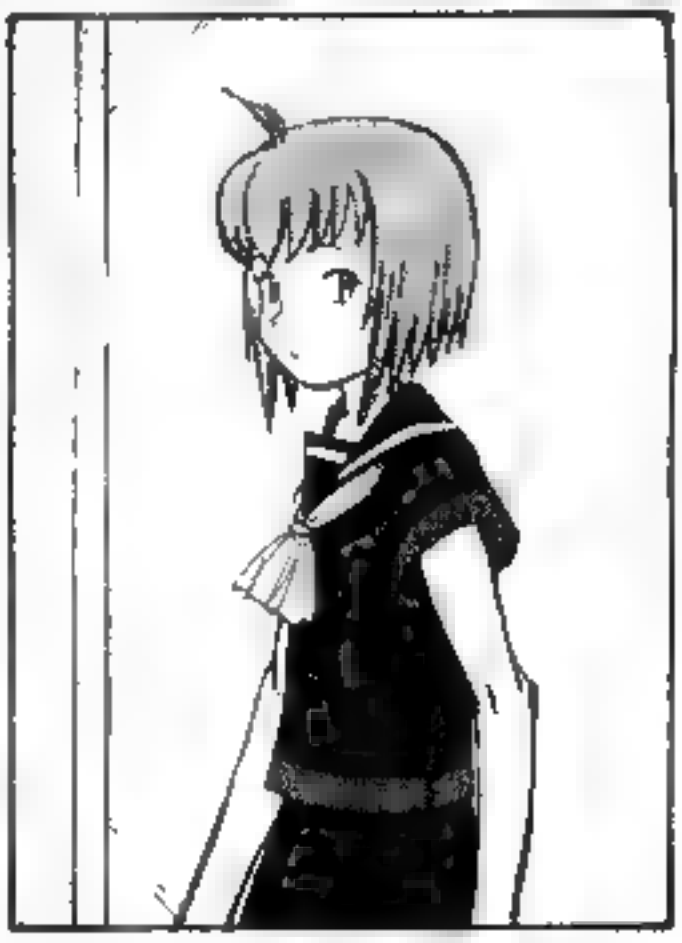


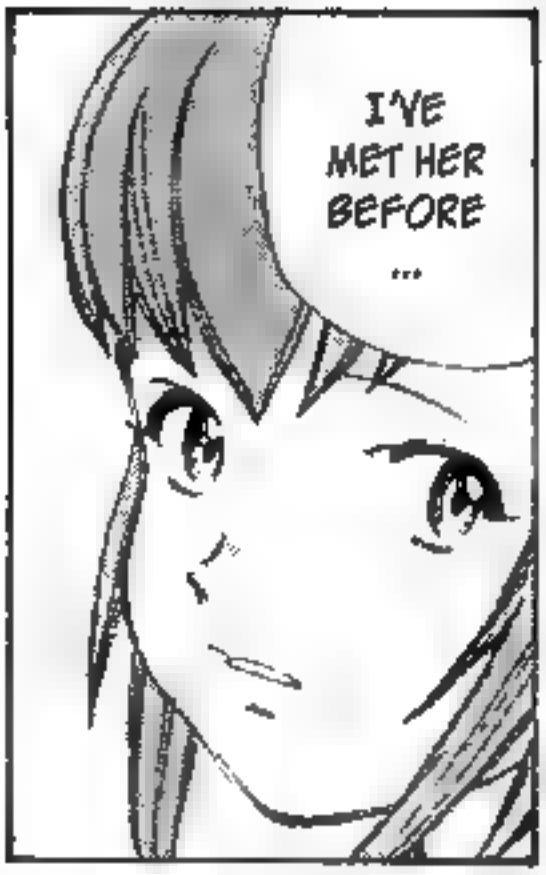


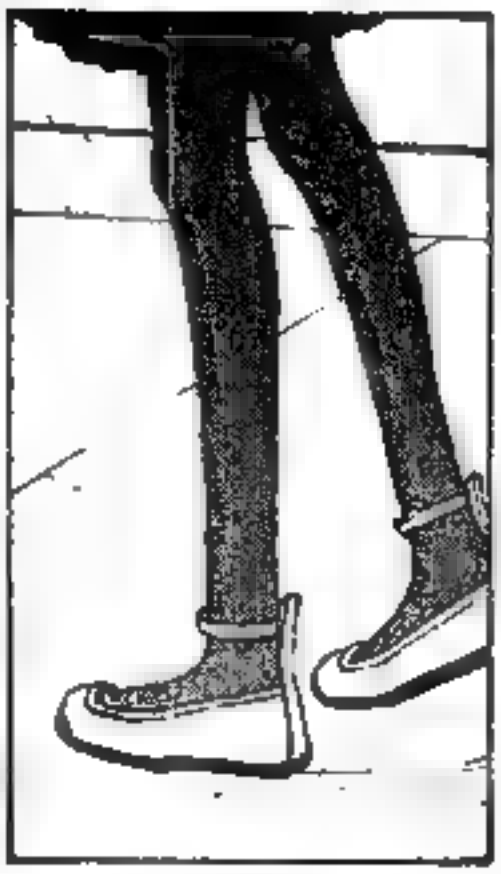


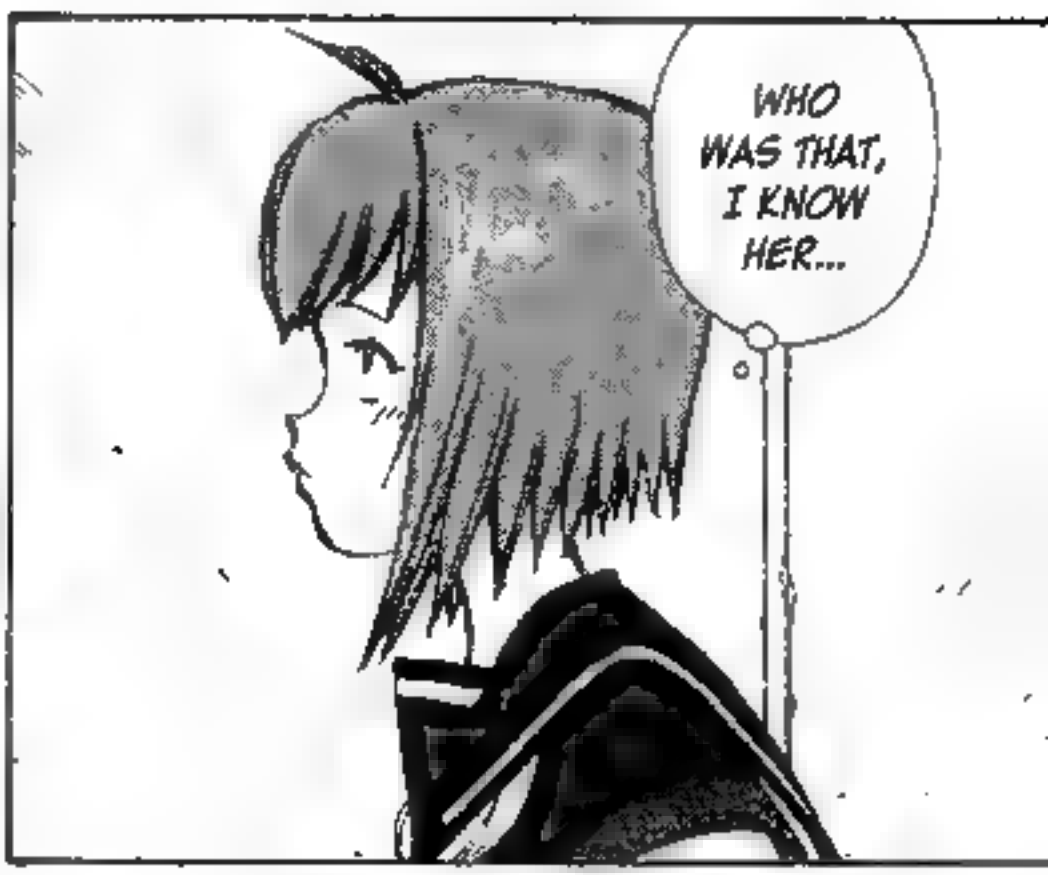


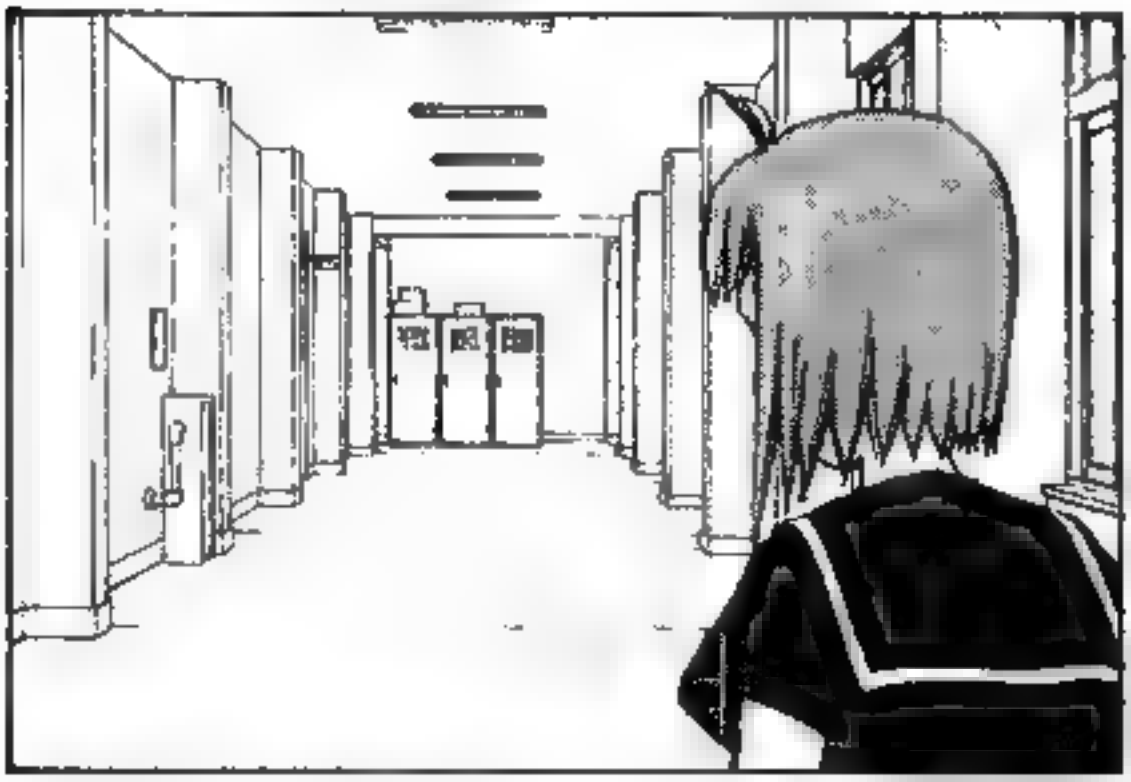


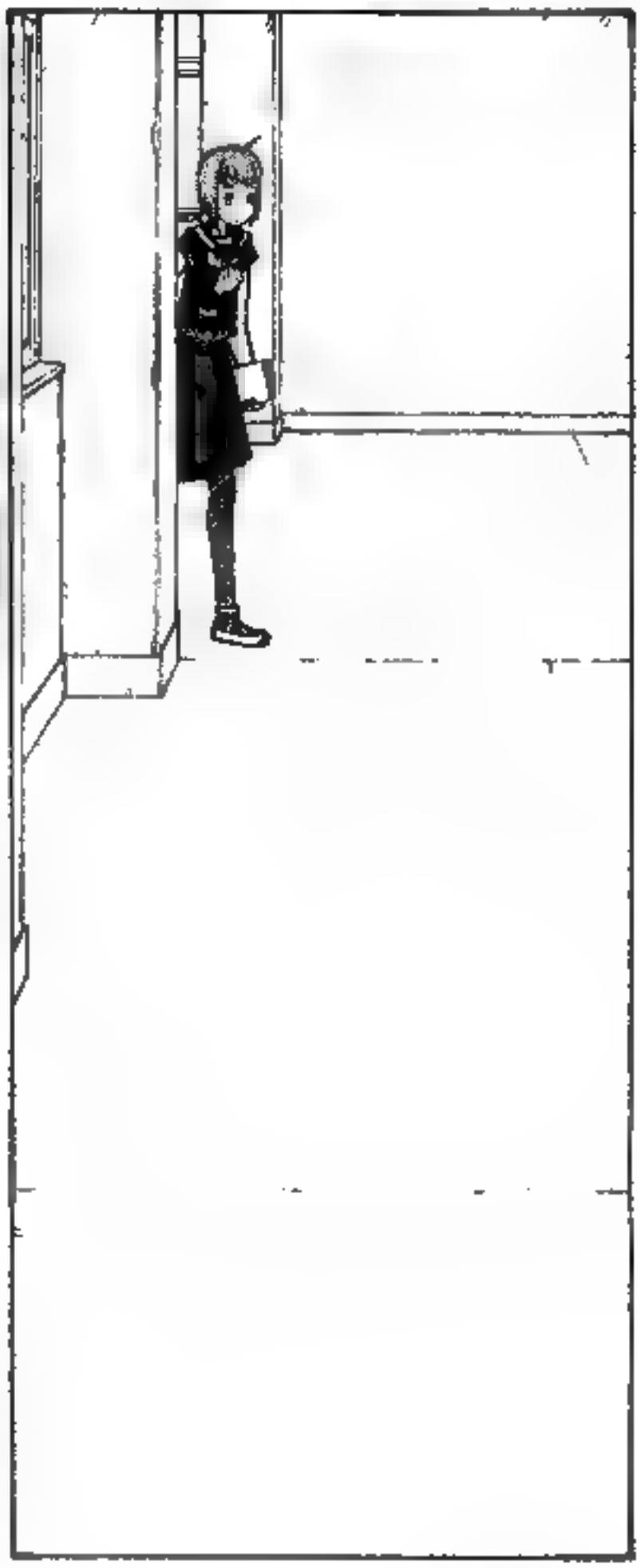



I'VE MET HER BEFORE ...




WHO WAS THAT, I KNOW HER...





...IT'S APPEARING AGAIN...

RECENTLY ...

WHAT IS?

WHAT THEN?

HAVE YOU HEARD?

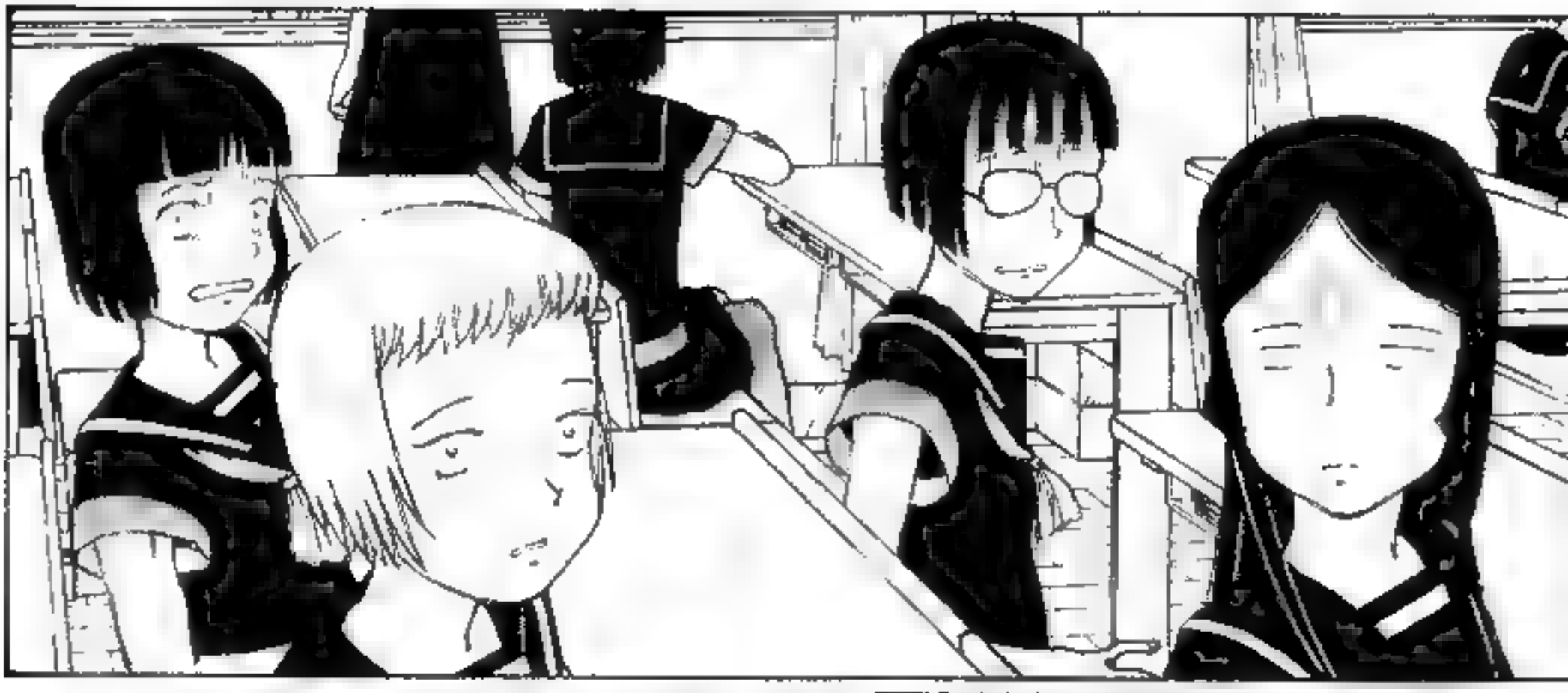
...THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

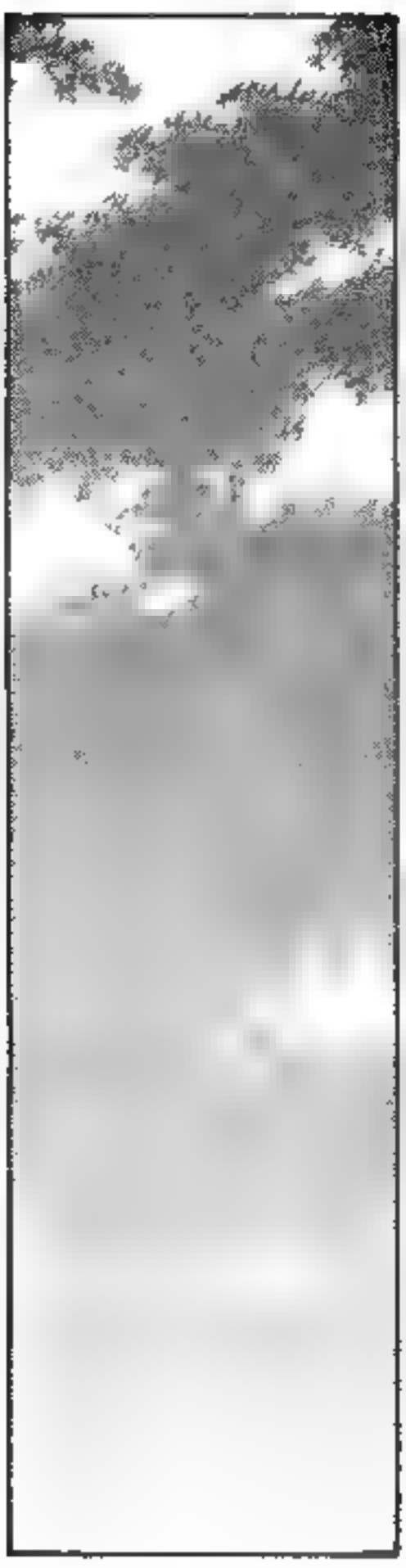
BUT SUDDENLY SHE WAS GONE LIKE THE GROUND SWALLOWED HER UP!

FOR EXAMPLE IN THE MUSIC ROOM...

WHAT?! THERE WAS A GIRL IN FRONT OF THE MUSIC ROOM...

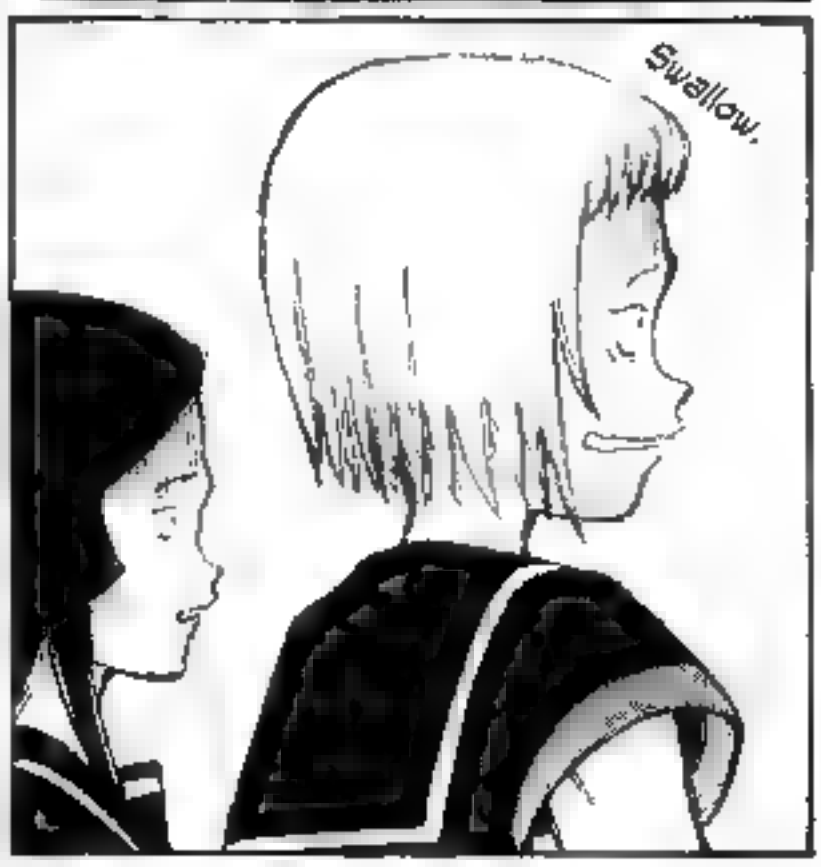
THIS HERE!

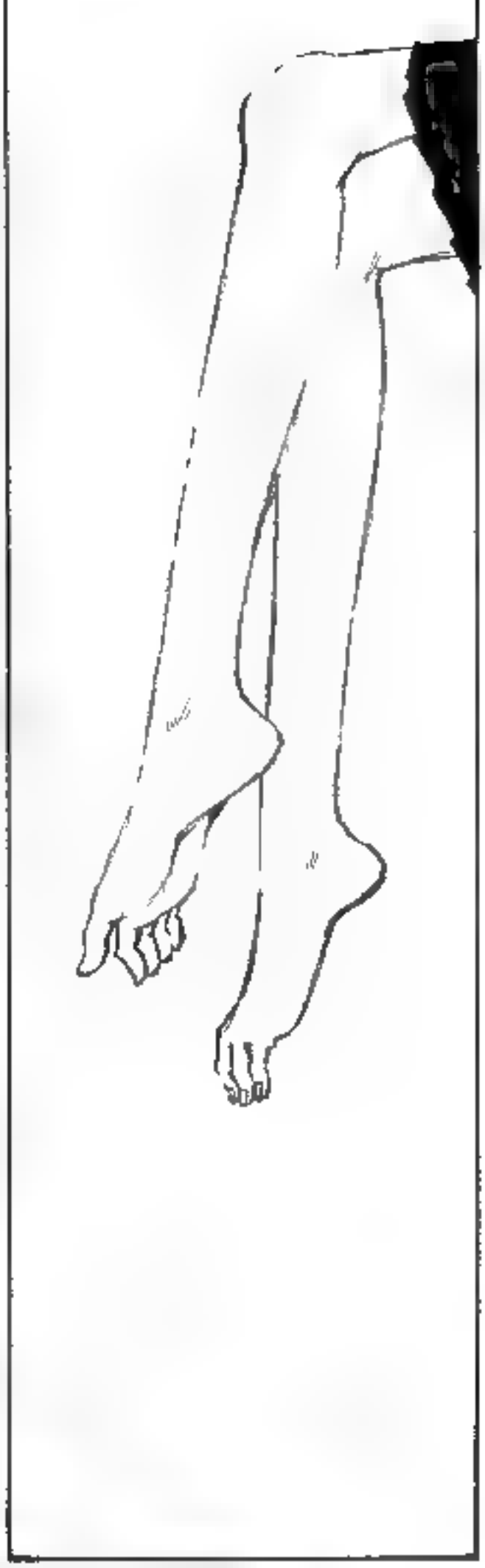


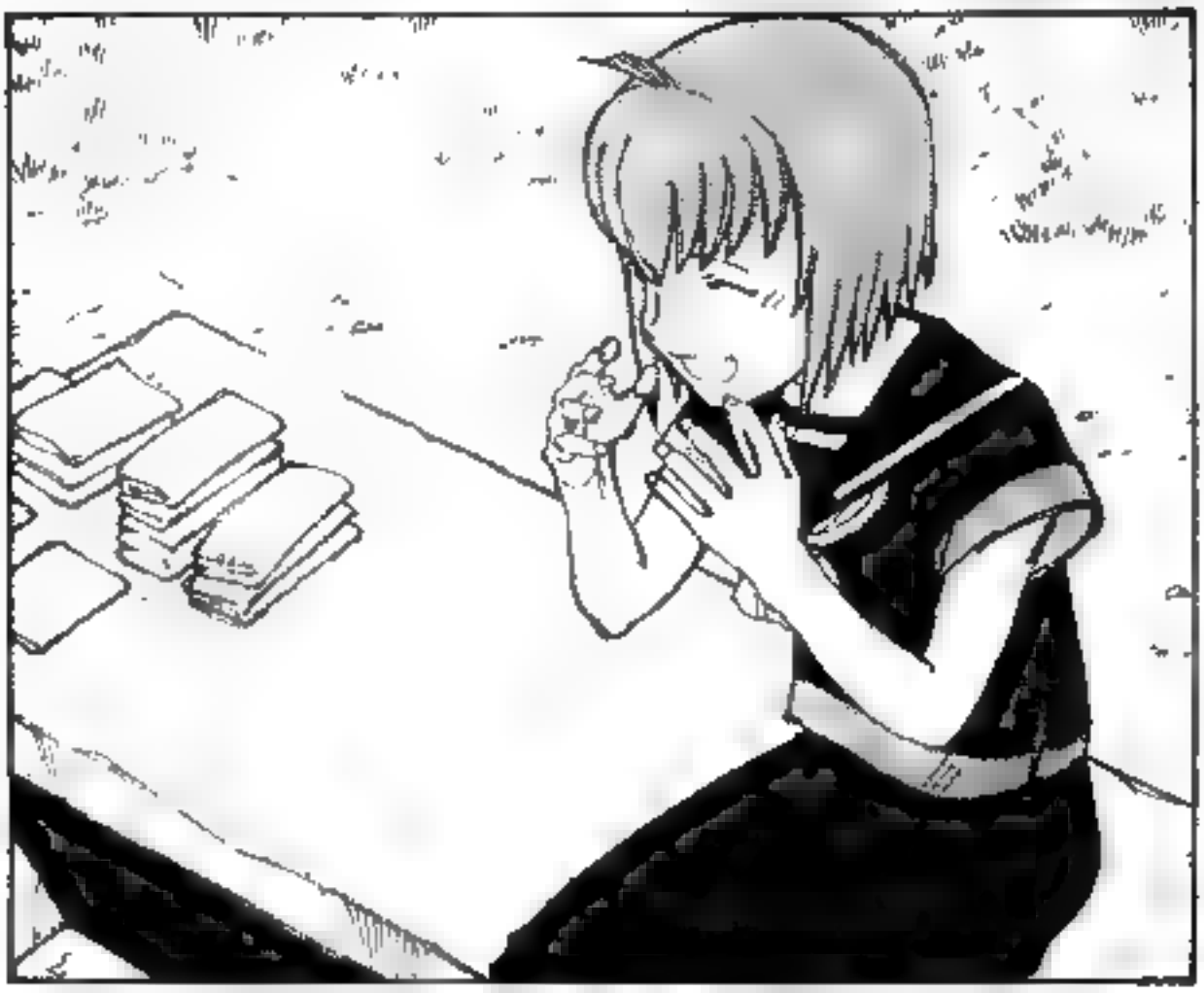


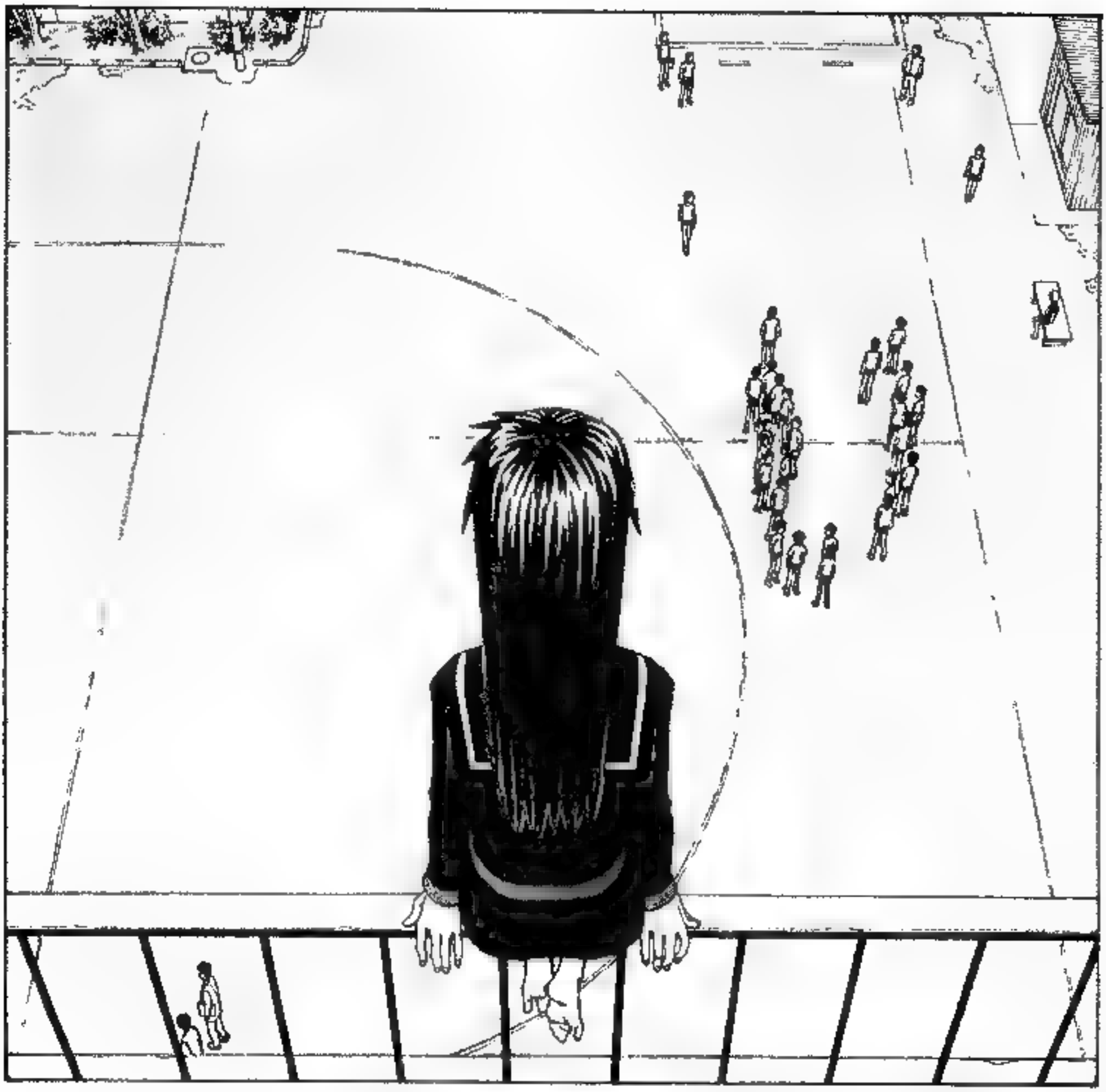
KYAA!
HIII...!

SHE SAW ME...
WHO COULD THAT HAVE BEEN?


Swallow.

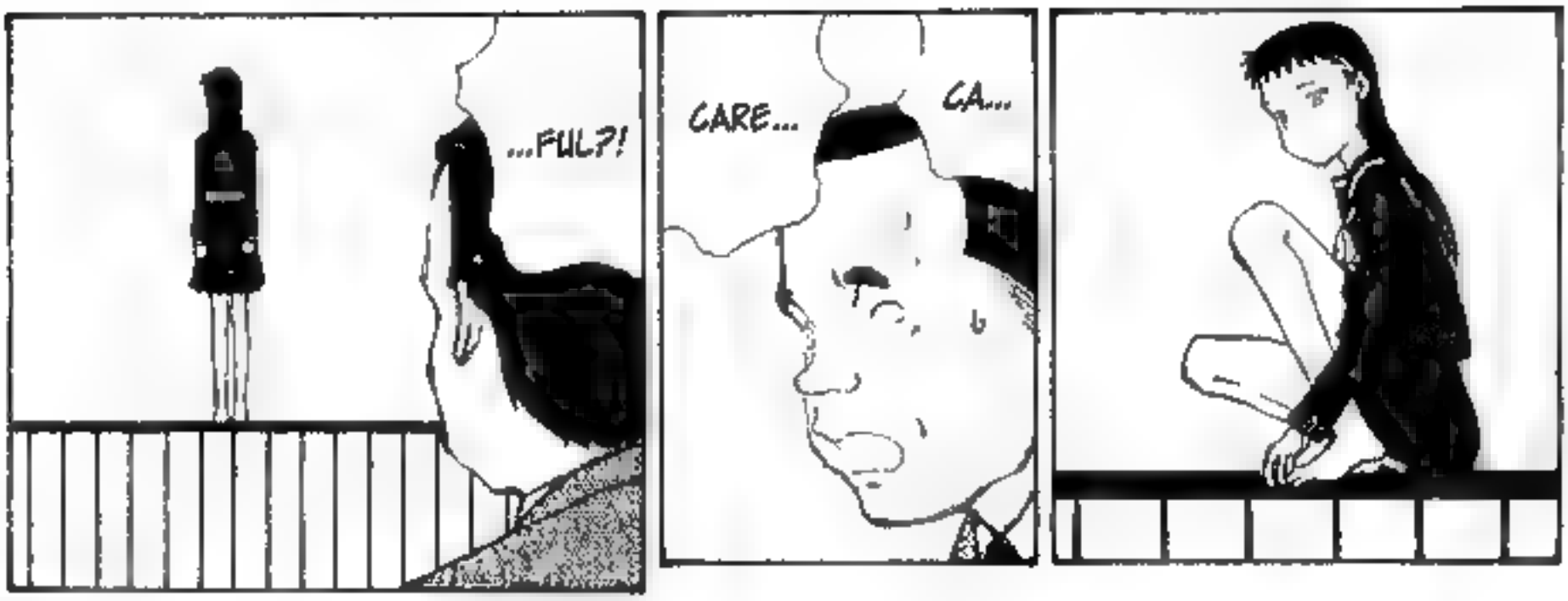






GET DOWN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!

HEY, YOU!


...FULP!
CARE...
CA...

WAAH!

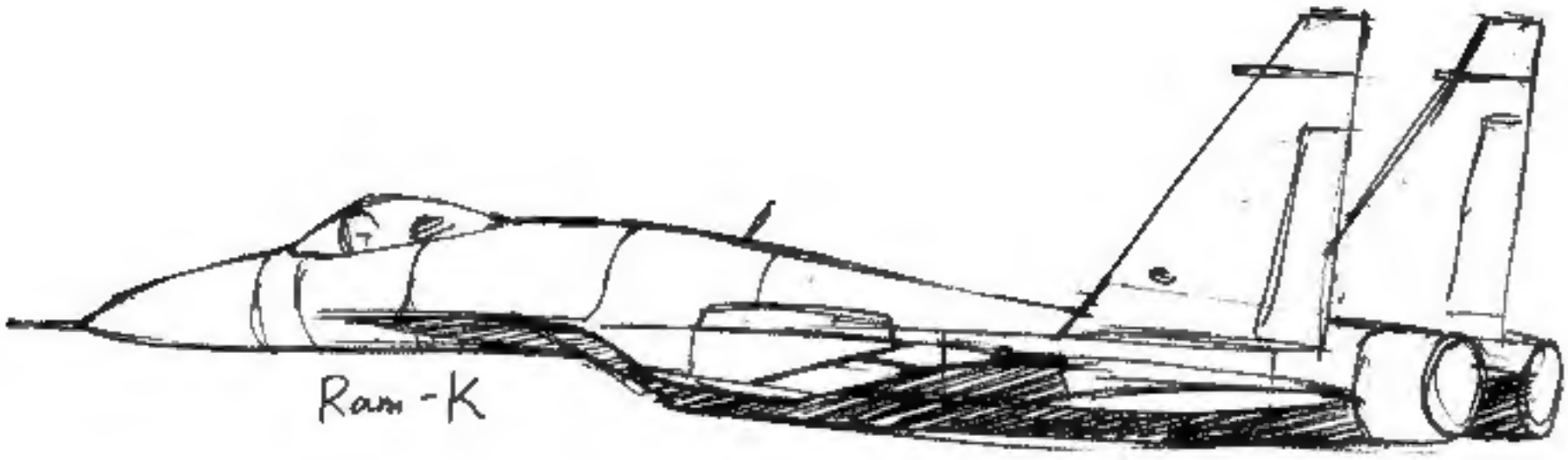
SHE...

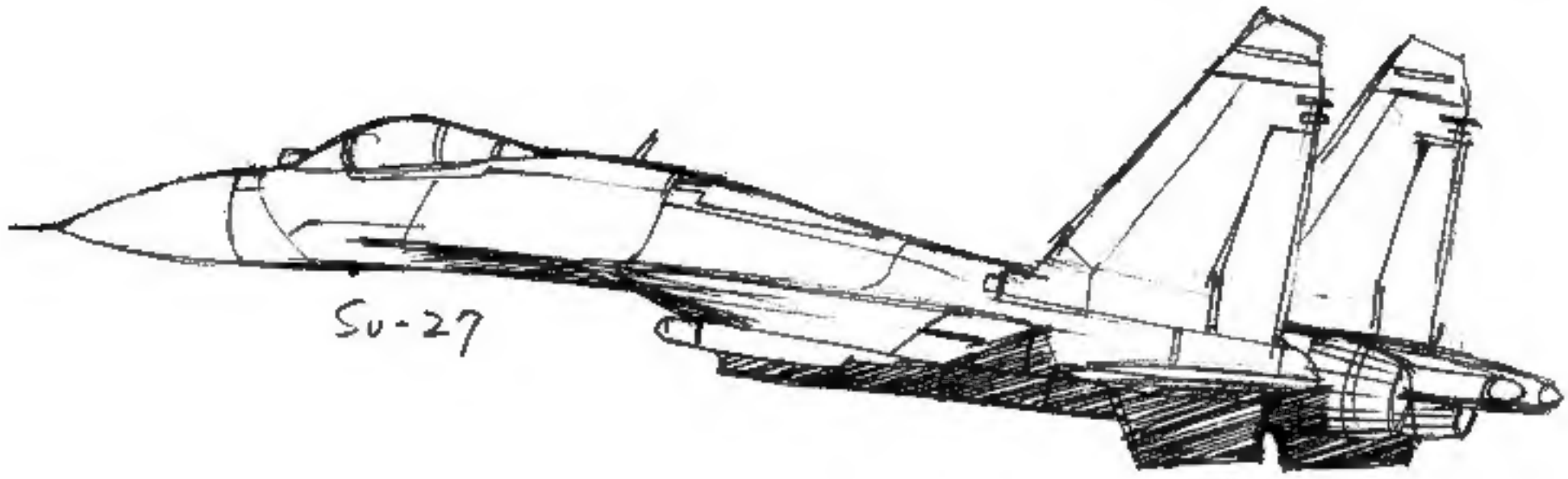
SHE'S GONE?!

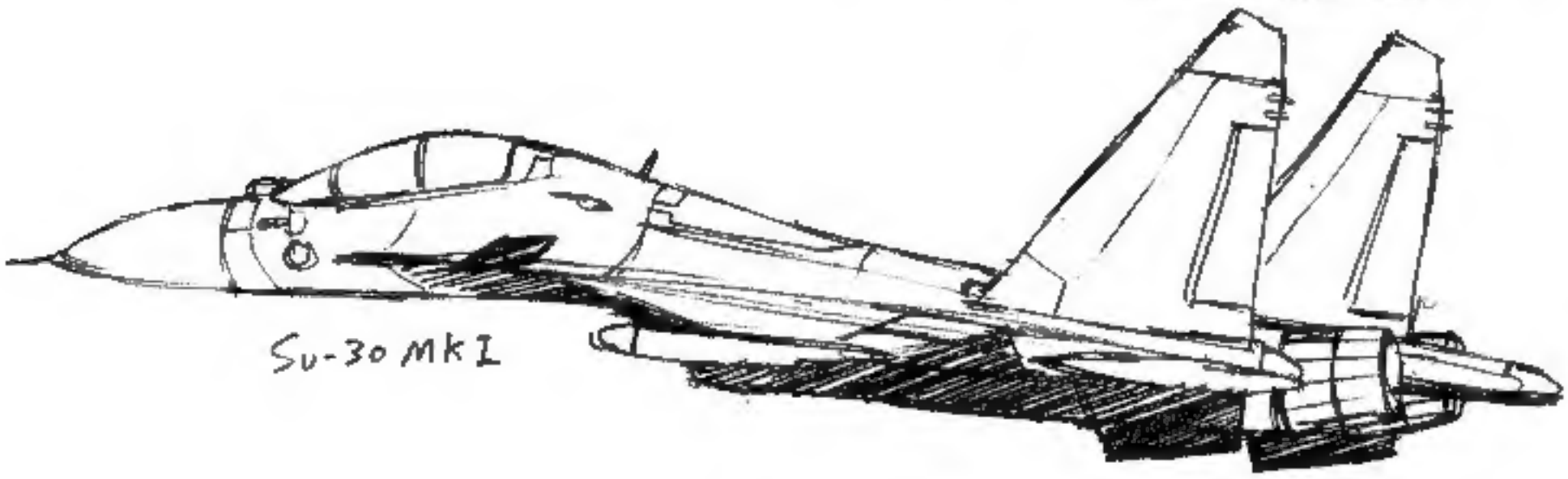
3

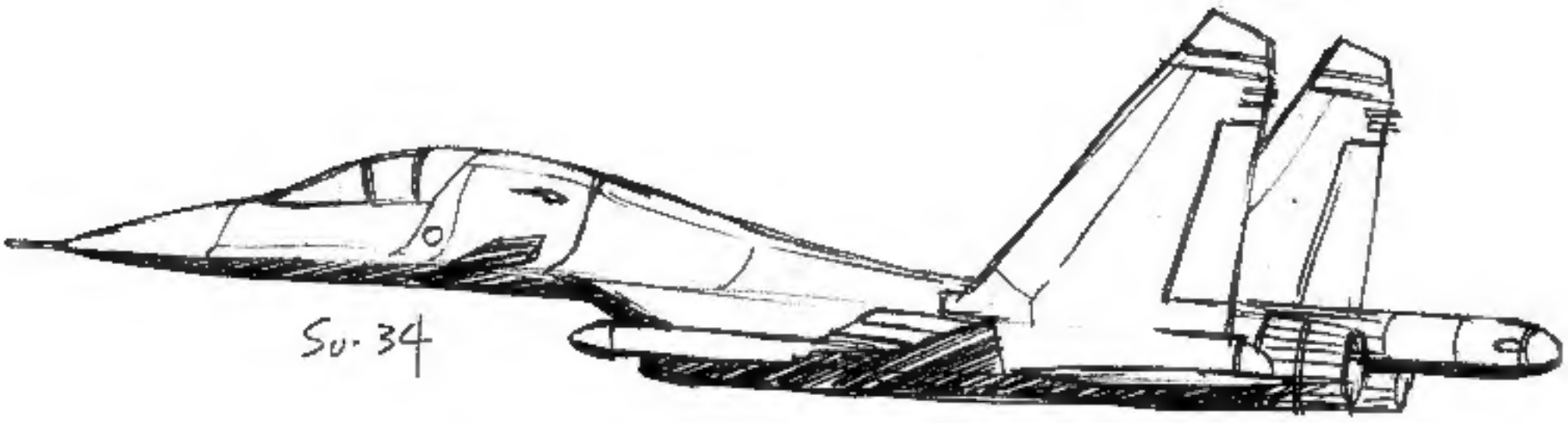
いつ？

皇室









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むくろなるほしのたまたるこ

アフタヌーンKC

なるたる 9

骸なる星の珠たる子

鬼頭 莫宏

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機種転換訓練のためロシアを訪れたシイナの父・玉依俊二。
街で助けてくれたバーブシュカに恩を返すため、
彼女の行方不明になっている息子を捜すことになる。
そして異境の空の中、俊二は新たな「竜」に遭遇する。

骸(むくろ)なる星の珠(たま)たる子

「みんなといっしょで、みんなとちがう」
そのことさえ解っていれば、差別問題も滅ると思うんですけど。

2002年6月 鬼頭 莫宏

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